CHAPTER 30
DEFENCE LONG SERVICE MEDAL

Introduction

30.1 The introduction of the Defence Long Service Medal (DLSM) followed a recommendation of the 1993/94 Committee of Inquiry into Defence and Defence Related Awards. The committee recommended that a single award recognising long service in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) would better represent the current and future organisation of the ADF as a total force, comprising the Regular and Reserve components, and acknowledging the increasing movement between these components. The DLSM recognises Defence service both with Regular or Reserve elements of the Defence Force and whether served as an officer or other rank. It is the only long service award available to members who complete 15 years qualifying service after 19 April 1999. The DLSM is described in Volume 2, Chapter 18.

Authority

30.2 Source documents for the DLSM are:
   b. CAG S160 of 30 March 2000—DLSM Regulations amendments.
   c. CAG S2 of 3 January 2002—DLSM Regulations amendments.

30.3 A consolidated version of these regulations can be viewed in www.defence.gov.au/medals.

Nomination and processing procedures

30.4 The nomination and processing procedures for the DLSM are in Annex A.

QUALIFYING CONDITIONS

Initial qualification

30.5 The DLSM may be awarded to a member of the ADF who has:
   a. on or after 20 April 1994, completed 15 years qualifying service, either continuous or aggregated; or
   b. completed 15 years qualifying service, either continuous or aggregated, with at least one-day on or after 14 February 1975, but before 20 April 1994, none of which is eligible for recognition by a Defence Force Service Award (DFSA) (refer to Chapter 29—'Defence Force Service Awards') by virtue of its length or character.

30.6 The DLSM cannot be awarded to a member who has completed qualifying service required for the award of a medal under the DFSA Regulations, regardless of whether the member has received the award, unless the member has made an election to have all of their service recognised as qualifying service for the DLSM. The election form is contained in Annex A, Appendix 2.

30.7 A member of the ADF may qualify for the DLSM if the member qualified for a DFSA between 20 April 1994 and 19 April 1999, but elects to take a DLSM instead. This is a once only election after which members cannot return to the DFSA stream. However, a member who does not make this election may make a later election as detailed in Paragraph 30.8.

30.8 An election in accordance with Paragraphs 30.6 and 30.7 must be in writing, signed by the member, and be lodged with Directorate of Honours and Awards (DH&A). No issue of the DLSM may be made to a member who makes an election (Annex A, Appendix 2) until all medals and clasps previously awarded under the DFSA Regulations have been returned to DH&A. If the previous awards...
have been lost, a Statutory Declaration must be provided with the election stating that the awards have been lost and the circumstances behind the loss.

30.9 Eligibility for the DLSM is not affected by any other award that may have been made to a member except the award of a DFSA. Service taken into account as qualifying service for an Imperial long service award or for the National Medal may be taken into account as qualifying service for the DLSM.

Clasps

30.10 A clasp to a DLSM may be awarded for each successive period of five years qualifying service following the initial award of the medal. When the medal is not worn, a rosette is affixed to the ribbon bar of the medal denoting the award of each clasp. On award of the fifth clasp the previous four rosettes are replaced with a single Federation Star ribbon bar emblem. Additional Federation Star emblems are added for the sixth and subsequent clasps.

30.11 Details of the types and method of wearing clasps and ribbon bar emblems is provided in Volume 2, Chapter 18, Annex A.

Qualifying service

30.12 With the introduction of the DLSM, Chief of the Defence Force determined under the authority of DLSM regulations that from 20 April 2000 the annual service obligation for the award of the DLSM is to be 20 days of efficient service per enlistment year for members of both the Permanent and Reserve Forces. It is important to note that for service to be recognised, the 20 days has to be completed in conjunction with serving a full year as a member of the ADF, continuous or in aggregate. For example, a member who serves for 14 years and six months will not qualify for a DLSM. Service completed during their last six months is not qualifying service towards a DLSM because the member has not completed the final year of service.

30.13 Before 20 April 2000, qualifying service for the DLSM was the same as that specified for the DFSA.

30.14 The details of the various minimum periods of annual qualifying service periods required by the various elements of the Reserve Force are detailed in Annex B. These were made by CDF determination of 6 February 2013.

Service by a member of the forces of another country

30.15 Members from the forces of another country who serve with the ADF on secondment or exchange, and subsequently join the ADF, are eligible to have their previous service with the ADF recognised as qualifying service for the DLSM.

Annexes:

A. Nomination and processing procedures for the Defence Long Service Medal
B. Minimum periods of annual qualifying service—Defence Long Service Medal