CHAPTER 40

RETURNED FROM ACTIVE SERVICE BADGE

Introduction

40.1 The purpose of the Returned from Active Service Badge (RASB) is to recognise Australian Defence Force (ADF) members who have returned from active or warlike service during military campaigns in operational areas. The award of the RASB is not governed by statute and is separate from awards under the Australian Honours System. The RASB, which is to be worn on civilian clothing only, is linked to awards of the Australian Active Service Medal 1945–1975 (AASM 1945–1975) and the Australian Active Service Medal (AASM). The reverse does not apply as there are instances when a RASB may be awarded when there is no entitlement to a service medal.

Definitions

40.2 For the purposes of this instruction the following definitions apply:

a. **Active service** means ‘warlike service’.

b. **Military campaign** is an operation, or series of operations in a defined theatre of operations with the objective of actively repelling an invading force or bringing to an end hostilities of an identified enemy or belligerent force.

40.3 The RASB is not issued to foreign personnel.

40.6 The RASB is not issued posthumously as the badge is intended to identify those who have returned from active service. It is only permitted to be worn by the person to whom it was issued. Family members and others, who may wear a deceased person’s medals on appropriate occasions, do not wear the RASB.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Eligibility

40.4 Unless otherwise specified, the eligibility criteria for the RASB before November 2008 is generally one day or more, active or warlike service, on the posted strength of a unit or formation allotted or assigned to and serving in the operational area, or one operational sortie into or over the operational area from a unit allotted for such service. On 21 November 2008, the Minister announced that eligibility for the RASB would be linked to the eligibility requirements for specific service medals for operational service.

Posthumous issue of Returned from Active Service Badge

40.6 The RASB is not issued posthumously as the badge is intended to identify those who have returned from active service. It is only permitted to be worn by the person to whom it was issued. Family members and others, who may wear a deceased person’s medals on appropriate occasions, do not wear the RASB.

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1 Ministerial Determination of 28 February 1946.
Additional awards of Returned from Active Service Badge

40.7 A member will only be issued with one RASB. Multiple periods of qualifying service do not attract multiple issues of the RASB.

QUALIFYING CONDITIONS

World War II

40.8 To qualify for the RASB for service during World War II a member must have service in accordance with Paragraph 40.4 and:

- a. embarked for service overseas between 3 September 1939 and 2 September 1945; or
- b. been serving overseas on 3 September 1939; or
- c. enlisted overseas between 3 September 1939 and 2 September 1945; or
- d. been stationed on full-time duty in the following prescribed operational areas within the Commonwealth of Australia and its Territories during the periods as shown:
  - (1) Mandated Territory of New Guinea—4 January 1942 to 2 September 1945,
  - (2) Territory of Papua—2 February 1942 to 2 September 1945,
  - (3) Northern Territory, north of latitude 14 degrees, 30 minutes South—19 February 1942 to 2 September 1945; and
  - (4) Torres Strait Islands—14 March 1942 to 2 September 1945.

40.9 Members of the permanent staff of a ship or the crew of a water transport vessel, which left on a voyage to a prescribed operational area but owing to enemy attack did not complete the voyage, are regarded as having rendered qualifying service.

40.10 Subject to the provisions of Paragraph 40.9, a member whose only service outside the territorial limits of the Commonwealth of Australia was undertaken during a journey from one part of the Commonwealth to another is not deemed to have served overseas.

Note

There will be individuals who qualify for a RASB but not a medal if qualifying periods for medals are not met. An example is RAAF personnel who served in the Northern Territory (above 14 degrees 30 min South) for less than the six-month period required to qualify for the Defence Medal.

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3 War Cabinet Minute 2192 of 12 June 1942.

4 Surrender of Japan.

5 Refer note 3.

6 Refer note 4.


8 Refer note 7.
Korean War

40.11 The qualifying period for the Korean War is 1 July 1950 and 27 July 1953. To qualify for the RASB for service during this period, a member of the ADF must have:

a. served one day on the posted strength of a unit or formation in Korea; or
b. carried out one operational sortie over Korea or Korean waters; or
c. served 28 days or more afloat in Korean waters; or
d. served at least 30 days, continuous or aggregated, on official visits, inspections or other occurrences of a similar nature on temporary duty in Korea, or in ships or craft engaged in operations off the Korean coast.

Korea—Post Armistice

40.12 To qualify for the RASB for service during the Korean post-armistice period a member must have completed 30 days service in South Korea during the post-armistice period from 28 July 1953 to 19 April 1956. Eligibility for the RASB is linked to the qualifying criteria for the Australian General Service Medal for Korea.

Malayan Emergency

40.13 To qualify for the RASB for service during the Malayan Emergency a member must have:

a. been posted or allotted to the prescribed operation or have been formally attached to a unit participating in the prescribed operation; and
b. have rendered service or completed one sortie in the Federation of Malaya, the colony of Singapore or Malaysia during the period 16 June 1948 and 31 July 1960 inclusive.

40.14 Members who were posted to the Australian Army Visitors Observers Unit qualified for the RASB when they made official visits, inspections etc, in Singapore between 31 December 1955 and 1 February 1959, or in Malaya/Malaysia between 31 December 1955 and 31 July 1960 provided that:

a. they were on official duty; and
b. the total combined time spent in area amounted to 30 days or more.

Operations in South-East Asia since 31 July 1962

40.15 In 1966 the RASB was approved for issue to members of the ADF who took part in operations in South-East Asia from 31 July 1962, the date of arrival in Vietnam of the first instructors of the Australian Army Training Team, Vietnam. Eligibility for the RASB for service since 31 July 1962 is directly linked to eligibility for the AASM 1945–1975 for the following operations and dates:

a. Sarawak, Brunei and Sabah—on and from 24 December 1962 to 11 August 1966 inclusive.

b. Brunei, North Borneo and Sarawak—on and from 8 December 1962 to 23 December 1962 inclusive.

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11 CAG S102 of 27 March 2001, GSM Malaya (also NGSM Malaya and AASM 1945–1975 Malaya as some did not get NGSM).
c. **Malay Peninsula and Singapore**—(excluding the area of Northern Malaya referred to in subparagraph 40.15d. below) on and from 17 August 1964 to 11 August 1966.

d. **Thai-Malay Border**—certain areas of Malaysia bordering on Thailand as defined in AASM 1945–1975 regulations as follows:

1. 1 August 1960–31 August 1964 inclusive (land and anti-terrorist operations); and

2. 17 August 1964–30 March 1966 (RAAF air operations).

e. **Thailand**—RAAF service on the Royal Thai Air Force Base Ubon, and with 2 Field Troop, RAE at Ban Kok Talat in Operations CROWN and POST CROWN during the period 25 June 1965 to 31 August 1968.


g. **Vietnam waters** for a distance of 100 nautical miles from the coast of Vietnam on and from 1 March 1967 to 27 January 1973.

**QUALIFYING SERVICE ON OR AFTER 14 FEBRUARY 1975**

40.16 A member of the ADF awarded the AASM, on or after 14 February 1975, is entitled to be awarded a RASB once they have returned from active service, provided that they have not been previously issued with the badge.

**Automatic award of Returned from Active Service Badge**

40.17 Members will not normally need to apply for a RASB as entitlements are processed automatically in conjunction with the award of an AASM.

**Application for Returned from Active Service Badge**

40.18 Serving ADF members. A serving member who believes that they are entitled to a RASB, which has not been received, may apply through their Commanding Officer/Officer Commanding to:

Directorate of Honours and Awards  
CP2–1  
Department of Defence  
PO Box 7952  
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

40.19 Former ADF members. Former members of the ADF may apply directly to the Directorate of Honours and Awards.

**Application form**

40.20 Application Form AD 807—Application for the Issue of Medals and/or Clasps is to be used. An electronic copy of the application may be obtained from the Defence Web Forms System or the DH&A website [www.defence.gov.au/medals](http://www.defence.gov.au/medals).

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13 Refer note 12.

14 Refer note 12.

15 Refer note 12.

16 CAG S64 of 28 February 2002.

17 Determination PERS 87–34979 Pt2.