



DEFENCE INSTRUCTIONS (ARMY)

Department of Defence (Army Headquarters)
CANBERRA ACT 2600

5 October 2006

The Defence Instruction (Army) listed below is issued by my command pursuant to section 9A of the *Defence Act 1903*.

P.F. LEAHY
Lieutenant General
Chief of Army

ISSUE NO PERS 8/2006

Amendment

PERS 119–1
AMDT NO 1
Complete Revision

Army Combat Badge

Cancellation

DI(A) PERS 119–1 ISSUE NO PERS 18/2005 of 1 OCT 2005 is cancelled, replace with attached pages.

Note: Instructions for filing and maintaining DI(A) are contained in DI(G) ADMIN 01–1 (filed as DI(A) ADMIN 1–3).

ARMY COMBAT BADGE

INTRODUCTION

1. The Army Combat Badge (ACB) is awarded to any member of the Australian Regular Army (ARA) or Army Reserve (all elements) on Continuous Full-time Service (CFTS) or other Reserve member in exceptional circumstances, for service in warlike operations or situations. This award does not replace the Infantry Combat Badge (ICB).

PURPOSE

2. The purpose of the ACB is to recognise any member of the Army who was force assigned to an infantry, armour, artillery, aviation or combat engineer based combat team/battle group, or similar unit/sub-unit, and who has served for a specified period of time on warlike operations. In exceptional circumstances, service on operations whilst serving in other than warlike activities, such as peacekeeping operations, or for units outside those designated above, may be recognised with the award of the ACB.

AIM

3. The aim of this instruction is to detail the policy and procedures applicable for awarding of the ACB.

DEFINITIONS

4. **Exceptional circumstance** is a situation in which the Australian National Commander considers that a member or unit/sub-unit has been involved in activities or actions that would warrant the award of the ACB but falls outside the guidelines of this instruction. In general, such a circumstance would have to involve direct combat action with an armed adversary and would otherwise have to meet the other eligibility criteria of paragraphs 10. or 11.

5. **Member** in this instruction means any member of any corps of the ARA or Army Reserve who were on CFTS at the time of deployment.

6. **Warlike operations** are defined as service in an operational area that has been declared warlike for the purposes of the award of the Australian Active Service Medal (AASM). The ACB will not be granted for deployments where the Australian Service Medal (ASM) is awarded, except in exceptional circumstances.

AUTHORISATION AND APPROVAL TO WEAR THE BADGE

7. The following responsibilities apply in granting authority to wear the badge:

- a. **Unit Commanding Officer (CO).** Where the award of the badge clearly lies within the eligibility requirements outlined in [paragraph 9.](#) the unit CO recommends the award of the ACB to the Australian National Commander (COMASC). When the CO and the COMASC is the same person the recommendation is to be forwarded to Director-General Personnel—Army (DGPERS–A) for approval.
- b. **Australian National Commander.** Where the award of the badge clearly lies within the eligibility requirements outlined in [paragraph 10.](#) the COMASC of the deployed force may award the ACB to designated units. The COMASC will be the recommending authority for the award of the ACB in exceptional circumstances or to units outside those designated in [paragraph 9.](#) The recommendation is forwarded to DGPERS–A for staffing action.
- c. **DGPERS–A.** DGPERS–A is to provide staff support for the award of the ACB in exceptional circumstances or for organisations that fall outside the units designated in [annex D.](#) DGPERS–A is to sponsor a submission for the award of the ACB to the ACMC.

8. **Army Capability Management Committee (ACMC).** Chaired by the Deputy Chief of Army, the ACMC will be the approving authority for awarding the ACB to members in exceptional circumstances or for organisations that fall outside units designated in [annex C](#).

Description

9. The badge, finished in burnished bronze, is in the form of two crossed swords surrounded by a laurel wreath. It is approximately 30 mm wide and fixed to the uniform by means of pins and clutch grips. A miniature of the badge is worn on mess dress.

Eligibility

10. Any member of any Corps who were force assigned to an infantry, armour, artillery, aviation or combat engineer based combat team/battle group or similar unit/sub-unit, and has given either continuous or an aggregate of 90 days satisfactory service on warlike operations for a single deployment or operation is eligible to wear the ACB. The Chief of Army may alter the eligibility criteria depending on the operation or deployment.

11. The ACB may also be awarded to members on exchange/attachment duties for service with allied units. Extant procedures to apply to wear the ACB in these circumstances apply.

12. The ACB may also be approved in the following special circumstances:

- a. except as regards length of service, satisfies the requirement of [paragraph 10](#). and who, in respect of service, has been decorated for gallantry, wounded in action, or evacuated from the theatre of operations because of a disability (not self-inflicted) attributable to that service; or
- b. been involved in direct combat with an adversary in an other than warlike operation (such as a peacekeeping operation) and has served on that operation for a period of 90 days; or
- c. serves in a conflict either with Australian forces or on exchange, but where that operation is less than 90 days, but in all other circumstances, the nature of the conflict would qualify for the ACB. Applications are to be recommended by the senior Australian Army member in theatre or the Head of Defence Staff for the country with which the member was deployed.

13. The ACB can only be awarded once.

Documentation

14. The approval format for the award of the ACB in normal circumstances is in [annex A](#).

15. The application form to be used by individual ex-serving members for operations post 1989 is attached see [annex B](#) available from the Army Internet site online at <http://www.army.gov.au/PUBS/pubs.htm>.

16. The recommendation format for exceptional circumstances is in [annex C](#) available from the Army Internet online at <http://www.army.gov.au/PUBS/pubs.htm>.

Designated areas of qualifying service

17. The qualifying periods of operational service and eligible units that saw service in those areas since 1948 are listed in [annex D](#).

RETROSPECTIVITY

18. **Eligibility.** The award of the ACB is retrospective to Malaya 1948.
19. **Approval.** Approved units are listed in [annex D](#). Approval outside those designated units is to be submitted to ACMC for approval by respective Head of Corps (HOC) through DGPERS-A using the format see [annex C](#).
20. **Distribution.** The ACB is a dress embellishment not an award and therefore falls outside the honours and awards system. Internal Army resources are insufficient to ensure distribution to all past members through formal Army channels. The following processes are to apply for distribution of the ACB to members eligible by retrospectivity and having served in units designated in [annex D](#).

Prior to 1989

21. Corps associations have been requested to provide the respective HOC with a list of eligible persons for endorsement, noting the requirement for the list to contain members of all corps who served with the appropriate unit.
22. Respective HOC are to endorse the list and forward to DGPERS-A. DGPERS-A approves the list and dispatches the requisite number of ACB to the Corps association. Corps associations are responsible for distributing the ACB to eligible members including postage and handling costs.

1989 onwards—ex-serving members

23. Ex-serving and all Standby Reserve members who believe they fulfil the eligibility criteria listed in [paragraph 9.](#), may apply for the ACB using the application form see [annex B](#). The application form must contain proof that the member served for the period claimed either by a certified true copy of the record of service (usually attached to the Certificate of Discharge) or using a Statutory Declaration.
24. The completed package is sent to DGPERS-A for approval at the following address:
- The RSM Ceremonial
R8-9-046
DGPERS-A
Department of Defence
CANBERRA ACT 2600
25. Approved applicants will be sent a certificate with their ACB entitlement to their postal address.

1989 onwards—serving members

26. Serving ARA and Active Reserve members who believe they are eligible to receive the ACB are to apply using the application form in [annex A](#). The claim for the ACB must be validated by the unit using either PMKeyS, unit records, posting history or in the last resort, a Statutory Declaration. Each application must be certified by the unit CO. Once approved, the member presents the signed application to the unit Q store for issue of their ACB entitlement.

ADMINISTRATION

Unit action

27. When an ACB is awarded, the unit Headquarters is responsible to forward a consolidated list of recipients to the Directorate of Honours and Awards (DHA) who will enter it into PMKeyS. DHA are the only directorate with access to the honours and awards section of PMKeyS.

Basis of issue

28. Each eligible **serving** member will be issued two full size ACB. Officers and senior noncommissioned officer (SNCO) are also entitled to one miniature ACB at public expense. Ex-service members are entitled to one full size ACB. Ex-serving officers and SNCO are also entitled to one miniature ACB at public expense. Replacement ACB are at individual expense. Units can indent for the number of ACB required through the Q system using NSN 8455-66-154-1815. For future operations, the ACB should be issued to eligible members prior to their return to Australia.

Wearing of the badge

29. The ACB is to be worn by eligible serving members of the Australian Army whilst in uniform. The Badge may be worn by eligible ex-service members, who subsequently join other uniformed organisations whose dress regulations permit the wearing, in uniform, of military awards. Eligible retired members may also wear the ACB, with the appropriate uniform, when attending military functions. On those occasions where medals may be worn on civilian clothes, the ACB may also be worn.

30. The badge is worn on the left breast, centrally placed one centimetre immediately above the medal ribbons or medals, with all orders of dress. On mess dress and mess dress white jacket a miniature of the badge is to be worn in the same location. For members entitled to wear another award badge, ie Badges Flying/Parachute Instructor, on the left breast, the ACB is to be worn one centimetre above the Badges Flying/Parachute Instructor. Only the ACB or the ICB may be worn, not both.

Forfeiture and restoration

31. Should any member forfeit campaign stars or medals then the ACB shall also be forfeited. Upon restoration of forfeited campaign stars or medals the forfeited ACB shall also be restored.

Infantry Combat Badge

32. The ACB does not replace the ICB. The ICB instruction Defence Instruction (Army) PERS 97-5—*Infantry Combat Badge* remains extant.

Annexes:

- A. [Approval to wear the Army Combat Badge—serving members](#)
- B. [Application to wear the Army Combat Badge Post 1989— ex-serving member](#)
- C. [Application through a Corps Association to be Awarded the Army Combat Badge—ex-serving members](#)
- D. [Army Combat Badge—Qualifying Service since 16 June 1948](#)

Sponsor: DGPERS-A (Ceremonial)

APPROVAL TO WEAR THE ARMY COMBAT BADGE—SERVING MEMBERS

PMKeys No	Rank	Initials	Name	Unit	Operation	Dates

I certify that the personnel whose names are listed above have met the criteria for the Army Combat Badge (ACB) in accordance with DI(A) PERS 119-1.

CO Signature
CO Signature block

Date:

COMASC Signature
COMASC Signature Block

Date:

Note

Only the CO's signature is required for retrospective ACB applications.

APPLICATION TO WEAR THE ARMY COMBAT BADGE POST 1989—
EX-SERVING MEMBER

Identifying You

PMKeyS Number:

Army Number:

Last Name:

Given Names:

Rank on Discharge:

Identifying the Operation

Operation Name or Acronym:

Dates deployed: From to

Is a certified copy of your record of service attached (circle one) Yes No

If No, is a Statutory Declaration attached? Yes No

Where do we send the ACB?

Address line 1 or PO Box:

Address line 2:

Suburb:

Post Code

State:

I, (insert full name), declare that I have read the Defence Instruction (Army) PERS 119-1—*Army Combat Badge* and that I fulfil all of the eligibility requirements and declare that the above information is true and correct.

Your Signature

(Printed Name)

Date:

_____ Official Use Only _____

Approved/Not Approved	Quantity Dispatched
	Large Small

DGPERS-A	Signature
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Date:	Date:
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APPLICATION THROUGH A CORPS ASSOCIATION TO BE
AWARDED THE ARMY COMBAT BADGE—EX-SERVING MEMBERS

Service Number	Initials	Name	Unit	Operation or Deployment	Dates of Deployment	Record of service provided
						Yes/No
						Yes/No
						Yes/No
						Yes/No
						Yes/No
						Yes/No

Submitted by Association

Contact name and address

Telephone number

Head of Corps Signature Block

Endorsed/Not Endorsed

Date:

DGPERS-A Signature Block

Approved/Not Approved

Date:

(quantity) Badges dispatched by

Date

ARMY COMBAT BADGE—QUALIFYING SERVICE SINCE 16 JUNE 1948

Serial	Campaign	Medal Awarded	Eligibility	Units
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
1	Malaya	GSM—clasp Malaya	16 June 1948–31 July 1960 (Malaya) 16 June 1948– 31 January 1959 (Singapore)	1 RAR Bn Gp 2 RAR Bn Gp 3 RAR Bn Gp
2	Korea	Korea Medal	01 July 1950–27 July 1953	1 RAR Bn Gp 2 RAR Bn Gp 3 RAR Bn Gp
3	Borneo	GSM (1962)—clasp Borneo	24 December 1962– 11 August 1966	3 RAR Bn Gp 4 RAR Bn Gp 1 SAS Sqn 2 SAS Sqn
4	Malay/Thai border	AASM—clasp Thai/ Malay	01 August 1960– 16 August 1964	1 RAR Bn Gp 2 RAR Bn Gp 3 RAR Bn Gp
5	South Vietnam	GSM (1962)—clasp South Vietnam Vietnam Medal	24 December 1962– 28 May 1964 29 May 1964–27 January 1973 (Eligibility terminates 20 December 1972)	1 Armoured Regt 3 Cavalry Regt 1 APC Sqn 4/19 PWLH APC Tp 1 Fd Regt 4 Fd Regt 12 Fd Regt 131 Div Loc Bty 1 Fd Sqn 161 Ind Recon Sqn 161 Recon Flt 1 SAS Sqn 2 SAS Sqn 3 SAS Sqn AATTV 1 ATF Def Pl 1 RAR Bn Gp 2 RAR Bn Gp 3 RAR Bn Gp 4 RAR Bn Gp 5 RAR Bn Gp 6 RAR Bn Gp 7 RAR Bn Gp 8 RAR Bn Gp 9 RAR Bn Gp
6	Malaysia	GSM (1962)—clasp Malay Peninsula	17 August 1962–12 June 1965	3 RAR Bn Gp
7	Kuwait	AASM—clasp Kuwait	17 January 1991– 28 February 1991	Exchange pers serving in zone

Serial	Campaign	Medal Awarded	Eligibility	Units
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
8	Somalia	AASM—clasp Somalia	UNITAF 10 January 1993–21 May 1993 Land components of UNOSOM2	1 RAR Bn Gp Elm of SASR
9	East Timor	AASM—clasp East Timor OP Warden—60 Days to Qualify	OP Faber/Stabilise 16 September 1999– 23 February 2000 OP Warden 16 September 1999– 10 April 2000 OP Tanager 20 February 2000– 19 May 2002 OP Citadel 20 May 2002– 18 August 2003	2 Cav Regt Tp 2/14 LHR Tp B Sqn 3/4 Cav Regt Tp 3 CER Elm 1 Avn Regt Elm 5 Avn Regt 1 RAR Bn Gp 2 RAR Bn Gp 3 RAR Bn Gp 4 RAR Bn Gp 5/7 RAR Bn Gp 6 RAR Bn Gp SASR
10	Afghanistan	AASM—clasp ICAT For service only within Afghanistan	OP Slipper 02 December 2001– 05 December 2002 OP Slipper 19 July 2005 onwards	Avn Element SOTG's RTF
11	Iraq	AASM—clasp Iraq 2003 OP Falconer— 30 Days to Qualify OP Catalyst— 90 Days to Qualify For service only within Iraq	OP Falconer 20 March 2003– 15 July 2003 OP Catalyst 16 July 2003	SECDT AMTG AATT-I IED Teams SASR Gp OBG-W