



## Foreign Awards

Foreign Government and International Organisations, that are recognised by the Australian Government, can request to offer Australian Defence Force Personnel foreign medallic recognition.

The Australian Government may also make the same offer to foreign countries. The offer is made Government to Government and must be approved before the medal is awarded or worn.



Major General Philippe Leonard, presents the French Legion of Honour to former WWII RAN sailor Mr Ken Joyce on board the French frigate FNS *Vendémiaire* at Garden Island, Sydney, 17 December 2015.

International medallic recognition may be awarded for:

- › Gallantry in operations
- › Bravery in civil actions
- › Meritorious or outstanding service

Awards recognising operational service may also be made.

## Guidelines concerning the acceptance and wearing of foreign honours and awards by Australians

The Australian Government reserves the right not to recommend the granting of permission for the formal acceptance of any foreign award which it judges to be contrary to Australian policy or interests.

- Permission for the formal acceptance and wearing of foreign awards, where an appropriate offer is made, can be given by the Governor-General, on the advice of the Prime Minister or the Minister with portfolio responsibility for the Australian honours system.
- Offers of foreign awards may only be considered when an offer is made from a country with which Australia maintains diplomatic relations; or by an official agency of the United Nations; or by other international organisations recognised diplomatically by Australia.
- There is no objection to foreign awards presented without official permission being worn on the right breast (restricted wear) at private functions or at special services of commemoration or at ceremonies held in connection with that country.



The Schedule of Approved Countries and Awards can be viewed on the Governor-General of Australia website [www.gg.gov.au/schedule-approved-countries-and-awards](http://www.gg.gov.au/schedule-approved-countries-and-awards)

## Rule of equivalency

Each foreign honour or award given to an ADF member will be subjected to an equivalence test against honours and awards within the Australian Honours System. The assessment of equivalence is based on the quality of the service or achievement for which the foreign honour or award is made.

Third country deployments.

ADF personnel deployed on operations whilst on a third country deployment (TCD) with a foreign Defence Force may be offered a foreign campaign or operational service award by the host nation for this service. In 1992, Her Majesty The Queen indicated her view that it is appropriate that Australian citizens should be recognised exclusively by the Australian Honours System. This means that Australians serving with foreign forces will, wherever possible, be recognised by an Australian award. A member who receives, or is eligible to receive, an Australian campaign or operational service award will not be given approval to also wear a foreign award for service on a TCD within the same operational area.

## Foreign badges, commendations, unit citation emblems and other uniform embellishments

ADF personnel may accept badges, commendations, unit citation emblems or other uniform embellishments conferred upon them for service with a foreign Defence Force or organisation. Application to wear such insignia is to be made to the member's parent Service Headquarters for consideration.

Please note that it is not appropriate for an individual, group, or government, to approach a foreign government in order to receive an offer of a foreign award.

**For further information call 1800 DEFENCE (1800 333 362) or search *Defence Medals* online to submit an application for approval to wear a foreign award.**