

Start Date in Location	End Date in Location	Country	Days
08-Jan-11	11-Jan-11	Afghanistan	4
17-Jan-11	20-Jan-11	Afghanistan	4
22-Jan-11	24-Jan-11	Afghanistan	3
27-Jan-11	29-Jan-11	Afghanistan	3
03-Feb-11	05-Feb-11	Afghanistan	3
02-Mar-11	04-Mar-11	Afghanistan	3
09-Mar-11	15-Mar-11	Afghanistan	7
22-Apr-11	23-Apr-11	Afghanistan	2
24-Apr-11	26-Apr-11	Afghanistan	3
03-May-11	06-May-11	Afghanistan	4
10-May-11	10-May-11	Afghanistan	1
19-May-11	23-May-11	Afghanistan	5
27-May-11	28-May-11	Afghanistan	2
31-May-11	03-Jun-11	Afghanistan	4
10-Jun-11	12-Jun-11	Afghanistan	3
29-Jun-11	30-Jun-11	Afghanistan	2
07-Jul-11	08-Jul-11	Afghanistan	2
29-Jul-11	30-Jul-11	Afghanistan	2
18-Aug-11	19-Aug-11	Afghanistan	2
23-Aug-11	25-Aug-11	Afghanistan	3
30-Aug-11	02-Sep-11	Afghanistan	4
08-Sep-11	14-Sep-11	Afghanistan	7
25-Sep-11	26-Sep-11	Afghanistan	2
30-Sep-11	03-Oct-11	Afghanistan	4
18-Oct-11	19-Oct-11	Afghanistan	2
22-Oct-11	22-Oct-11	Afghanistan	1
24-Oct-11	27-Oct-11	Afghanistan	4
31-Oct-11	01-Nov-11	Afghanistan	2
06-Nov-11	06-Nov-11	Afghanistan	1
10-Nov-11	12-Nov-11	Afghanistan	3
01-Dec-11	03-Dec-11	Afghanistan	3
08-Dec-11	09-Dec-11	Afghanistan	2
18-Dec-11	28-Dec-11	Afghanistan	11
11-Jan-12	14-Jan-12	Afghanistan	4

Total Days in Country

112

Defence Portfolio

SENATE ESTIMATES QUESTION

(Question No. 21)

Senator Jacqui Lambie asked the Department of Defence the following question, upon notice, on 15 February 2023:

Senator LAMBIE: Do you accept that, at the time of your nomination in 2011 and 2012, the relevant letters of patent for the DSC, signed by our late monarch, Queen Elizabeth II and then Prime Minister Bob Hawke, was dated 15 January 1991, and the regulations set out in that schedule—page 2, regulation 3—prescribed:

The Distinguished Service Cross shall be awarded only for distinguished command and leadership in action.

Gen. Campbell: I will have to check what the date of the letters patent is. I know there was a change at some stage. We'll have to take that on notice to confirm.

Senator LAMBIE: Minister, could you tell me whether or not, at the time of CDF's nomination, the Department of Defence or the Army had either a statutory or a prescribed definition of what 'in action' meant?

Senator Wong: At which time was this?

Senator LAMBIE: This was at the time of CDF's nomination for the Distinguished Service Cross.

Senator Wong: So this is past government, not his status as CDF.

Senator LAMBIE: Yes.

Senator Wong: I would have to take that on notice.

Senator LAMBIE: Could you please take that on notice.

Senator Wong: This is about whether or not there was a policy or statutory definition of 'in action'.

Senator LAMBIE: Yes. CDF, how many times between January 2011 and December 2012 did you visit Afghanistan?

Gen. Campbell: I will have to take that on notice. I was certainly in Afghanistan for somewhere between 60 and 80 days—or it might be more, but it was in that ballpark of days in Afghanistan.

Senator LAMBIE: I was wondering if either you or the minister could please explain to this committee how you could be considered in action if you're based 1,700 kilometres away from Afghanistan.

Gen. Campbell: Clearly, that's not a question I can answer.

Senator LAMBIE: Can I get an answer to that on notice, please. This is all coming down to the words 'in action'.

Senator Wong: I understand that.

Senator LAMBIE: I've done a lot of homework on this. I really cornered this. I won't go through this again in estimates, but I want to finish it off today.

Gen. Campbell: Sure.

Senator Wong: This goes back to the time frame for the award of the DSC; is that right?

Gen. Campbell: Yes.

Senator Wong: Okay.

Senator LAMBIE: So you would be aware that the original DSC letters patent, dated the 15th of the

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1st 1991, was amended on 13 December 2011 by the then Deputy Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, and simply omitted the words 'in action' and inserted the words 'in warlike operations'. Are you aware of that?

Senator Wong: I wasn't aware of that, but I now am.

Senator LAMBIE: Can anybody explain to me who in the ADF sought the amendment to the DSC letters patent from 'in action' to 'in warlike operations' shortly after you were nominated, and why that was changed? Can someone give me a reason? You can take that on notice, but we want to know why that was changed—what the reasoning behind that was.

Gen. Campbell: We'll take that on notice.

Senator Jacqui Lambie – The Department of Defence provides the following answer to the Senator's question:

1. Yes, The Distinguished Service Decorations Regulations were amended by the Sovereign on 13 December 2011, by replacing the words 'in action' with the words 'in warlike operations'.
2. Yes.
3. Defence records detail that between January 2011 and January 2012 General Campbell entered Afghanistan 34 times for a total of 112 days in country.
4. The recommendations of the 2008 Defence Honours, Awards and Commendations Policy Review were presented to the Government in May 2009. The purpose of the review was to examine policies and practices; identify anomalies, or implications, arising from current initiatives (of the time); and define contemporary service as it applied to medallic recognition in terms of contemporary operations and activities.

The then Special Minister of State responded on behalf of the Government identifying amendments to the Distinguished Service Decorations Regulations as the preferred course of action to ensure medallic recognition reflected the needs of contemporary operations and activities.

In December 2009, the Chiefs of Service Committee considered the matter and the then CDF directed Defence pursue amendments to the Distinguished Service Decorations Regulations to remove the words 'in action' and align these awards with contemporary Australian Defence Force service.

Following a period of consideration and consultation with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Attorney-General's Department, Defence sought the agreement of the Government for the changes. The Government recommended the Distinguished Service Decorations Regulations be amended which was approved by the Sovereign on 13 December 2011 and formally gazetted on 22 February 2012.

Authorising Officer

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s22

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CC: Assoc Sec, VCDF, FASMECC

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