



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF AIR FORCE

R1-6-C001, PO Box 7902, CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

CAF Directive 19/13

DGPERS/2013/AB14944058

OCAF/2013/AB14975303

DIRECTIVE BY THE CHIEF OF AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE GROUND COMBAT BADGE

INTRODUCTION

1. The Air Force Ground Combat Badge (AFGCB) recognises service by Air Force members (Permanent or Reserve) whose deployed role in a 'warlike' area of operations required them to operate within a combat or escalated threat environment beyond that routinely experienced within a deployed base. In exceptional circumstances, service in a non-warlike area of operations may be recognised for the purpose of determining eligibility for the awarding of the AFGCB.

PURPOSE

2. The purpose of this directive is to formalise the policy and processes associated with the awarding of the AFGCB.

DEFINITIONS

3. For the purpose of this directive, the following definitions apply:
- a. **Area of operations.** An area, defined by specific boundaries, within which military units undertake military operations. Personnel undertaking duties in the area of operations are subject to specific conditions of service and entitlements directly related with the operation.
 - b. **Ground Defence Area (GDA).** A GDA is a defined area surrounding an airbase perimeter in which the base commander has freedom of action to conduct those combat or combat-related activities which enable airbase security and thus air operations through increased depth in security posture. Specifically, the GDA allows threats to be identified and treated far from the base, as well as providing the means to mitigate indirect fire, small arms fire and man-portable threats. Depending upon the operation and when it took place, a GDA might also be known by another term such as a 'Close Approach Area' or a 'Patrol and Surveillance Area'.
 - c. **Combat Duties.** Combat duties are those requiring a person to commit, or participate directly in the commission of, an act of violence against an adversary in a declared GDA surrounding an airbase within a warlike AO.

- d. **Combat-Related Duties.** Combat-related duties are duties (other than combat duties) requiring a person to work in support of, and in close proximity to (ie. whilst also in a GDA surrounding an airbase within a warlike AO), a person performing combat duties, in circumstances in which the person performing the work may be killed or injured through an act of violence by an adversary.
- e. **Member.** For the purpose of this instruction a member means any member of any specialisation or mustering in the Royal Australian Air Force (PAF or Reserve).
- f. **Warlike operations.** Operations conducted in an AO that has been declared warlike for the purposes of conditions of service including remuneration, allowances, and honours and awards (eg. awarding of the Australian Active Service Medal (AASM)).
- g. **Non-warlike operations.** Operations conducted in an AO that has been declared non-warlike for the purposes of conditions of service including remuneration, allowances, and honours and awards (eg. awarding of the Australian Service Medal (ASM)).

ELIGIBILITY

4. Any Air Force member, or former member, who meets, or who has previously met, all of the following criteria is eligible for the award of the AFGCB:
 - a. force assignment to a 'warlike' AO commencing with the Vietnam Conflict for a minimum period of 90 days (continuous or aggregate);
 - b. satisfactory performance of duties – assumed unless a member is returned to Australia early or removed from combat or combat related duties for administrative or disciplinary reasons;
 - c. prior awarding of, or concurrent eligibility for the:
 - (1) AASM;
 - (2) Operational Service Medal (OSM) for 'warlike' operations; or
 - (3) OSM or ASM for 'non-warlike' operations but only where considering eligibility pursuant to the exceptional circumstances detailed at subparagraph 6(b);
 - d. was a member of the RAAF at the time of their eligible service; and
 - e. they routinely undertook combat or combat-related duties during the relevant deployment/s.
5. Notwithstanding the requirement to be 'force assigned', subject to deploying in a manner equivalent to force assignment, and subject to meeting all other criteria at paragraph 4, the AFGCB will also be awarded to Air Force members on exchange/attachment duties for service with joint or coalition/allied units.

6. **Eligibility exceptions.** Implicit in the criteria above is the expectation that eligible members will have been placed in a position where they were in greater peril than those operating within the confines of an airbase. Consequently, the AFGCB may also be approved in the following cases:

- a. Where the member deploys to a ‘warlike’ AO and meets all criteria other than the required duration of deployment to a ‘warlike’ AO and as a consequence of their deployed service they are:
 - (1) decorated for gallantry, or
 - (2) killed in action, wounded in action or evacuated from the AO because of a disability attributed to that service that is not self inflicted.
- b. Where the member legitimately engages an adversary in small arms fire or combat using edged weapons whilst on deployment to a warlike or non-warlike AO for a minimum of 90 days and provided they rendered satisfactory service in accordance with sub-paragraph 4b.

7. By exception, where an Air Force member clearly meets the intent, but does not meet all of the criteria specified at paragraph 4 and elaborated upon at paragraph 5 and is not covered by an exception detailed at paragraph 6, one or more of the eligibility criteria may be waived by an authorised delegate. Waivers of this nature are expected to be quite rare.

8. The AFGCB can only be awarded once.

ADMINISTRATION

Application process

9. Applications for the award of the AFGCB may be initiated by either the member (using the form at annex B) or their unit (using the form at annex C). It is anticipated that the majority of initial applications will be prompted by members and former members whose qualifying service pre-dates this directive and they are therefore no longer embedded in a deployed unit with direct knowledge of their deployed service.

Approving authorities

10. The following responsibilities apply in granting the authority to wear the badge:
 - a. **All criteria have been satisfied or a recognised exception clause applies.** Where the award of the badge clearly lies within the eligibility requirements articulated at paragraphs 13 to 16 of this directive, or an exception clause detailed at paragraph 17 of this directive applies, award of the AFGCB may be approved by:
 - (1) Director General Personnel – Air Force;
 - (2) Chief of Staff to Director General Personnel – Air Force; or
 - (3) Deputy Director Personnel Concepts and Policy.

- b. **Exception circumstances not anticipated.** Where a member applies to be awarded the AFCGB having regard to exceptional circumstances not contemplated by this directive, the authority to approve or not approve the request is delegated to:
- (1) Director General Personnel – Air Force; or
 - (2) Deputy Chief of Air Force.

Processing

11. On receipt of an application, Personnel Branch staff will assess the application against service records. Where an application is approved, the award will be recorded in PMKeyS (for those with a PMKeyS Employee ID Number). All approvals and non-approvals also will be recorded in a master spreadsheet to enable tracking of both current and retired members who have made applications.
12. Personnel Branch staff will write to all applicants advising them of the outcome of their application. Approval letters will be accompanied by the badge. Non-approval letters will advise the reasons for non-approval.

Description and Entitlement

13. The badge, finished in antique pewter, is in the form of a bayonet overlaid on the Airman's wreath with the Air Force eagle (annex A refers).
14. Each eligible applicant (current or former member) will be issued one full size AFGCB and one miniature. Replacement AFGCB may be provided at the expense of the applicant.

Wearing the badge

15. The AFGCB is to be worn by eligible members of the RAAF whilst in uniform. The badge may also be worn by eligible ex-service members, who subsequently join other services or uniformed organisations whose dress regulations permit the wearing, in uniform, of military awards.
16. Eligible retired members may also wear the AFGCB, with the appropriate uniform, when attending military functions. On occasions when medals are worn on civilian clothes, the AFGCB may also be worn.
17. The badge is worn on the left breast, centrally one centimetre immediately above medals or ribbons with all orders of dress. On mess dress the miniature is worn in the same location. For personnel entitled to wear a brevet or other qualification badge the AFGCB is to be worn one centimetre above the brevet/badges.

Forfeiture and Restoration

18. Should any person forfeit campaign medals (ie. AASM, ASM, or OSM) then an AFGCB predicated upon the award of those medals is also forfeited. The AFGCB may be restored on restoration of the campaign medals.

Related Awards

19. The AFGCB does not replace any existing ADF similar award. Where a member of the RAAF has already been awarded the Infantry Combat Badge (ICB) or Army Combat Badge (ACB) they may continue to wear that award or forfeit that right by applying for and being approved to wear the AFGCB. Under no circumstance can a member wear both the AFGCB and either the ACB or ICB.

20. Members who would otherwise qualify for the ICB or ACB from date of authorisation of this directive will no longer be eligible to receive those awards. Instead, these members will be considered for the award of the AFGCB.

IMPLEMENTATION

21. This directive is effective immediately and will remain extant until replaced.

22. The sponsor of this directive DGPERS-AF.

23. Addressees are to ensure widest dissemination.



G.C. BROWN

Air Marshal
Chief of Air Force

07 Aug 13

Annexes:

- A. AFGCB Pictorial Representation
- B. AFGCB – Individual Application Template – Post Deployment
- C. AFGCB – Unit Generated Application Template – Individual

Distribution:

DCAF (R1-6-C002)
ACAUST
CDR ACG
CDR AFTG
CDR ALG
CDR AOSG
CDR CSG
CDR SRG
Commanders' Net (DDCRM)
AFHQ homepage intranet site

AFGCB Pictorial Representation



APPLICATION FOR AIR FORCE GROUND COMBAT BADGE (AFGCB) AWARD

(This form to be used for all member/former member generated applications)

PMKeyS Number: _____ Service Number: _____ Must/Spec: _____
(Post-2001 service active/inactive) (Pre-2002 service) (Employment Category)

Rank: _____ Given Names: _____ Surname: _____
(Current or on Cessation of Service)

Operation Name/s: _____
(Criterion 1 – Eligibility predicated on force assignment to a ‘Warlike’ Operation)

Dates Deployed: _____
(Criterion 2 – Eligibility predicated on 90 Days aggregate service on a ‘Warlike’ Operation other than in defined exceptional circumstances)

Deployed Unit/Task Group: _____

AASM Awarded (Criterion 3): Yes / No (Please Circle) Deployed as Air Force Member (Criterion 4): Yes / No (Please Circle)

Justification to be issued with AFGCB other than criterion (1) to (4) noted on this form. Include a brief description of combat or combat related duties (Criterion 5-definitions below) routinely performed during deployment and/or exceptional circumstances requiring consideration where eligibility criteria not met. Supporting documentary evidence to be attached where necessary.

(Criteria 5)

Combat Duties. Those duties requiring a member to commit, or participate directly in the commission of, an act of violence against an adversary in a declared ground defence area surrounding an airbase within a warlike AO.

Combat-Related Duties. Combat-related duties are duties (other than combat duties) requiring a member to work in support of, and in close proximity to (ie. whilst also in a declared ground defence area surrounding an airbase within a warlike AO), another member performing combat duties, in circumstances in which the member performing the work may be killed or injured through an act of violence by an adversary.

Ground Defence Area (GDA). A GDA is a defined area surrounding an airbase perimeter in which the base commander has freedom of action to conduct those combat or combat-related activities which enable airbase security and thus air operations through increased depth in security posture. Specifically, the GDA allows threats to be identified and treated far from the base, as well as providing the means to mitigate indirect fire, small arms fire and man-portable threats. Depending upon the operation and when it took place, a GDA might also be known by another term such as a ‘Close Approach Area’ or a ‘Patrol and Surveillance Area’.

Return Address: _____

(Current unit for serving members/Home Address or PO Box (Including Suburb, Postcode and State) for former members)

Contact Details: _____

(Telephone and/or Mobile Phone and/or Email address)

Applicant Certification:

I,(insert full name), declare that the information provided on this application form is true and correct.

Signature:

Printed Name:

Date:

Forward Applications to:

BP29-2-249

Director General Personnel – Air Force
Brindabella Park – Building 29
29 Brindabella Circuit
Majura ACT 2609

APPLICATION FOR AIR FORCE GROUND COMBAT BADGE (AFGCB) AWARD

(This form to be used for all unit generated applications)

PMKeyS Number: _____ Service Number: _____ Must/Spec: _____
(Post-2001 service active/inactive) (Pre-2002 service) (Employment Category)

Rank: _____ Given Names: _____ Surname: _____
(Current or on Cessation of Service)

Operation Name/s: _____
(Criterion 1 – Eligibility predicated on force assignment to a ‘Warlike’ Operation)

Dates Deployed: _____
(Criterion 2 – Eligibility predicated on 90 Days aggregate service on a ‘Warlike’ Operation other than in defined exceptional circumstances)

Deployed Unit/Task Group: _____

AASM Awarded (Criterion 3): _____ Deployed as Air Force Member: (Criterion 4): Yes / No (Please Circle)

Justification to be issued with AFGCB other than criterion (1) to (4) noted on this form. Include a brief description of combat or combat related duties (Criterion 5) routinely performed during deployment and/or exceptional circumstances requiring consideration where eligibility criteria not met. Supporting documentary evidence to be attached where necessary.

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Return Address: _____

(Current unit for serving members/Home Address or PO Box (Including Suburb, Postcode and State) for former members)

Contact Details: _____

(Telephone and/or Mobile Phone and/or Email address)

Commanding Officer Recommendation:

On the basis of the justification provided I, recommend that:(insert full name),
be awarded the AFGCB.

Signature:

Printed Name:

Rank:

Appointment:

Date:

Forward Applications to:

BP29-2-249

Director General Personnel – Air Force

Brindabella Park – Building 29

29 Brindabella Circuit

Majura ACT 2609