

FACT SHEET

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

The Distinguished Service Cross is awarded for distinguished command and leadership in warlike operations.

Distinguished Service Decorations are awarded by the Governor General on the recommendation from the Minister for Defence. Awards are announced on Australia Day (26 January) and His Majesty The King's Birthday (June) each year

Medal Design: The Distinguished Service Cross is a modified Maltese Cross of nickel-silver ensigned with the Crown of St Edward. The obverse bears a Federation Star surmounted on a disc of flame.

Insignia ribbon: The medal ribbon has a central ochre-red stripe flanked by narrower silver-blue stripes.

Post nominal: Recipients have the post-nominals of DSC. Those awarded a bar or bars may also use 'and Bar' or 'and Bars' after their name.

History: The Distinguished Service Decorations were introduced in 1991 and originally recognised command and leadership in action. The 'in action' was removed in 2011 and replaced with 'in warlike operations'.

There are three levels of decoration:

- Distinguished Service Cross (DSC)
- Distinguished Service Medal (DSM)
- Commendation for Distinguished Service (CDS)

The DSC is the highest level of the Distinguished Service Decorations.

- Next highest level of award: N/A
- Next lower level of award: Distinguished Service Medal



Ribbon - DSC with Bar

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS/INFORMATION

Definition of Warlike: Defence Honours and Awards Manual defined Warlike as operations declared by the Governor-General to be warlike.

Eligibility: Persons eligible to be awarded Distinguished Service Decorations are:

- members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF).
- other persons determined by the Minister.
- Foreign defence force members serving on exchange or posting with the ADF may receive Distinguished Service Decorations. However, no award may be made to a foreign defence force member without prior concurrence from the member's government.

Subsequent awards: Second and subsequent awards of the Distinguished Service Cross are recognised by the presentation of a nickel-silver bar. The bar has a central replica of the Federation Star superimposed on a horizontal row of flames. The bar is worn attached to the ribbon of the original Cross. A ribbon bar emblem in the form of a Federation Star of nickel-silver diameter is worn on the ribbon bar.

Quotas: Quotas do not apply to Distinguished Service Decorations.

REGULATIONS

. Commonwealth of Australia Gazette

Decoration Regulations

No. S 25, 4 February 1991



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Elizabeth II'.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God Queen of Australia and Her Other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth;

TO ALL to whom these Presents shall come,

GREETING:

WHEREAS it is desirable that there be instituted certain decorations for the purpose of according recognition to members of the Defence Force and certain other persons for distinguished command and leadership in action or distinguished leadership in action or distinguished performance of their duties in warlike operations:

KNOW YOU that We do by these Presents institute three Australian decorations to be designed and styled, respectively the Distinguished Service Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal and the Commendation for Distinguished Service:

AND WE DO ordain that the award of the decorations so instituted shall be governed by the Regulations set out in the Schedule.

IN witness whereof We have caused these our Letters to be made Patent.

GIVEN under the Great Seal
of Australia at Our Court at
St James's on 25 January
1991



By Her Majesty's Command.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Bob Hawke'.

Prime Minister

SCHEDULE

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE DECORATIONS REGULATIONS

Short Title

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Distinguished Service Decorations Regulations.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations –
"decoration" means –
 - (a) the Distinguished Service Cross;
 - (b) the Distinguished Service Medal;
 - (c) the Commendation for Distinguished Service; or
 - (d) a bar to the Cross or Medal;"Defence Force" has the same meaning as in the *Defence Act 1903*;
"Minister" means the Minister of State for Defence.

Conditions for award of decorations

3. (1) The Distinguished Service Cross shall be awarded only for distinguished command and leadership in action.
(2) The Distinguished Service Medal shall be awarded only for distinguished leadership in action.
(3) The Commendation for Distinguished Service shall be awarded only for distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations.
4. Each decoration may be awarded posthumously.
5. The persons to whom a decoration may be awarded are –
 - (a) members of the Defence Force; and
 - (b) other persons determined by the Minister for the purposes of this regulation.
6. Any subsequent award of the Distinguished Service Cross or the Distinguished Service Medal to the same person shall be made in the form of a bar to the Cross or Medal, as the case may be.

Making of Awards

7. Awards of a decoration shall be made by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister.

Making of immediate awards

8. An immediate award of a decoration shall be made by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister.

Designations

9. (1) A person to whom the Distinguished Service Cross has been awarded is entitled to have the letters "DSC" placed after the person's name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary.

(2) A person to whom the Distinguished Service Medal has been awarded is entitled to have the letters "DSM" placed after the person's name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary.

(3) Where a person has been awarded a bar to a decoration, the person is entitled to have placed after the letters prescribed by this Regulation in respect of that decoration the words "and Bar" or the words "and Bars" as the case may be.

Design of decorations

10. The design of each decoration shall be as prescribed.

Wearing of decorations

11. The manner of wearing each decoration shall be as determined by the Governor-General.

Registrar of Awards

12. (1) There shall be a Registrar of Awards appointed by the Governor-General who shall maintain a Register of the names of persons to whom the decoration has been awarded.

(2) The Registrar shall keep such other records relating to the award of the decoration as the Governor-General directs.

Cancellation and reinstatement

13. (1) The Governor-General may cancel an award of the decoration and may reinstate an award so cancelled.

(2) Where an award of the decoration is cancelled, the name of the person to whom the award was made shall be erased from the Register and the person shall return the decoration to the Registrar.

(3) Where an award that has been cancelled pursuant to sub-regulation (1) is reinstated, the Registrars shall restore the entry or entries in the Register that had been erased.



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

DETERMINATION UNDER THE

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE DECORATIONS REGULATIONS

I, **ROBERT HILL**, Minister for Defence, pursuant to Distinguished Service Decorations Regulations, pursuant to the Schedule to Letters Patent dated 4 February 1991, ("the Regulations"), hereby make the following **determination**:

Foreign Defence Forces who may be awarded Distinguished Service Decorations

That for the purposes of paragraph 5(b) of the Regulations, the persons described below are a class of persons who may be awarded Distinguished Service Decorations:

- (a) Foreign defence force members serving on exchange or posting with the Australian Defence Force.

Dated

16th January

2003

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Hill".

ROBERT HILL
Minister for Defence



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God Queen of Australia and Her other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth:

TO ALL to whom these Presents shall come,

GREETING:

WHEREAS, by Letters Patent dated 15 January 1991 given under the Great Seal of Australia, We instituted three Australian decorations, to be designated and styled, respectively, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal and the Commendation for Distinguished Service, for the purpose of according recognition to members of the Defence Force and certain other persons for distinguished command and leadership in action or distinguished leadership in action or distinguished performance of their duties in warlike operations:

AND WHEREAS the Letters Patent ordained that the award of the decorations be governed by the Distinguished Service Decorations Regulations set out in the Schedule to the Letters Patent:

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that certain amendments of the Regulations be made so that the Distinguished Service Cross and the Distinguished Service Medal may be awarded, respectively, for distinguished command and leadership in warlike operations and distinguished leadership in warlike operations:

KNOW YOU that We do, by these Presents, declare Our pleasure that the Letters Patent dated 15 January 1991 be amended, but without prejudice to anything lawfully done under them, as set out in the Schedule.

IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.



GIVEN under the Great Seal of Australia at Our Court at St James's on 13 December 2011.

By Her Majesty's Command

Prime Minister

Schedule

Amendment of the Distinguished Service Decorations Regulations

- [1] Regulation 3**
omit each mention of
in action.
insert
in warlike operations.

Note

1. All legislative instruments and compilations are registered on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments kept under the *Legislative Instruments Act 2003*. See <http://www.frli.gov.au>.