Guidance

Medals: campaigns, descriptions and eligibility

Details of the medals awarded to serving members of the armed forces, veterans and MOD employees; and who can receive them.

From: Ministerial Defence Personnel Committee
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The Ministry of Defence Medal Office issues medals to currently serving members of the armed forces, veterans and MOD employees. If you are a serving member of the armed forces, you need to contact your unit and should contact your organisation's Human Resources department in the first instance.

You can apply for a medal if you meet the criteria.

The information in this guide is intended to give a brief overview only.

Announcements

Service versatiles

In 2021 Medal Office is updating its IT systems between Tuesday 13 April and Monday 27 May 2021.

Our public facing services will paused during this time. This includes enquiries and applications for medals and veterans badges.

You will be able to send applications as normal from 9am on Monday 17 May 2021.

Current medals

Following the accession of His Majesty King Charles III, from 1 May 2023 the monogram on the medals issued by the Medal Office will however continue to issue medals bearing the effigy of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for those who qualified before the date. The Medal Office may not reflect the monarch that the recipient receives.

The Coronation Medal 2023 enquiries

The distribution of the Coronation Medal 2023 is in its final stages. If you have enquiries relating to this award, contact The MOD Medal Office:

Email: DBS-PersonalCentre@mod.gov.uk

On 9 May 2023, the Cabinet Secretary announced the introduction of a Coronation Medal to recognise members of the Armed Forces, front line emergency services and those who have made a significant impact on the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, with an expected total of 400,000 recipients. In recognition of His Majesty The King's role as Commander-in-Chief of the UK Armed Forces.

The majority of eligible MOD personnel were automatically identified and their details were passed to the Medal Office to issue the medals. There are a number of defence who left the Armed Forces since 06 May 2023 and have not yet received their award. These individuals can now apply for their medal using the following criteria:

Apply for a replacing a medal or wearing badge - Apply for a replacing a lost or worn medal or wearing badge - GOV.UK

Members of the Defence community who meet any of the following criteria will be eligible for the Coronation Medal:

- Serving members of the Armed Forces who have completed five full calendar years of service and were in post on or before 1st May 2023.

- Serving members of the Armed Forces who have completed Operation Kelman Resettlement Period (ORP) and are unofficially gain salutes, parades, or presentations of regimental colours.

- Civil Service and those from MOD sponsored voluntary organisations who provide active contributory service to official military operations, including Operations Support, Military Stations Administration, Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories.

These include the Coronation Service on 6 May 2023 (Operation GOLDEN ORB), or the National Service of Thanksgiving and Prayer on Monday 8 May 2023 (Operation GOLDEN SCEPTRE).

If you are or were employed or sponsored by another front line emergency service that may be eligible for the Coronation Medal, please contact your HR department in the first instance for further information, as the MOD Medal Office only administers medals relating to the Armed Forces.

Delays to historic requests

As a result, DPP operations and appeals relating to Reserve Forces personnel are currently being forced to work unnecessarily well and beyond their normal working hours to ensure that the backlog is finalised. This work is likely to take a several months to complete and the outcome will be published as a DPA as soon as possible. It must be emphasised that the Medal Office is currently working to an requirement for two years (1826 days) qualifying service as at 6 Feb 2022, as this is a Pan-Government requirement.

Campaigns

Coronation Medals 1953

The POGS Medal Office is unable to accept and assess applications for the Majesty The Queen's Coronation Medal 1953. (Dec 2016)

Clarification of the qualification criteria for the Accumulated Campaign Service Medal (ACSM) and GSM

A formal review of the Accumulated Campaign Service Medal policy and qualification criteria has been concluded to resolve ambiguity over how time spent in operational theatres is to be counted. For further information about the review, guidance on eligibility and how to apply can be found on The Accumulated Campaign Service Medal (ACSM) 1964 and GSM Policy Review (2020).

Decorations, Gallantry and Distinguished Conduct medals

You can't apply for these awards. You must be recommended to qualify.

You can read recommendations for honours and awards at The National Archives.

The awards below are listed in the official 'order of precedence'. The letters in brackets are put after a person's surname to show their award.

Victoria Cross (VC)

The Victoria Cross

The Victoria Cross is the premier Operational Gallantry award given for 'most conspicuous bravery, or some daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice, or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy'.

It may be awarded to all ranks of the services and civilians and can be awarded posthumously. The VC is the highest award for military gallantry which would have merited a second award of the VC except one issued with a bar.

The POGS Medal Office does not issue this award.

George Cross (GC)

The George Cross

The George Cross is the premier award given for non-operational gallantry or bravery in circumstances of great danger. It is ranked second to the VC in greatest honour in the Honours precedence in recognition of extreme danger.

The George Cross is equal in status to the UK honours system to the Victoria Cross, the highest military gallantry award. This has always been the case since the introduction of the award in 1940.

It may be awarded to all ranks of the services and civilians and can be awarded posthumously.

The POGS Medal Office does not issue this award. Replacement awards are available from the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood.

Orders of the Bath and the British Empire

Read information about the Order of the Bath and the Order of the British Empire.

Distinguished Service Order (DSO)

The Distinguished Service Order is an operational gallantry award given for highly successful command and leadership during active operations. It ranks second to the Victoria Cross and is ranked before the Military Cross. Normally awarded after the DFC and before the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal.

It may be awarded to all ranks of the services. This award is not available posthumously.

The POGS Medal Office does not issue this award. Replacement awards are available from the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood.

Conspicuous Gallantry Cross (CGC)

The Conspicuous Gallantry Cross

The Conspicuous Gallantry Cross is an operational gallantry award given to all ranks of the services in recognition of exemplary gallantry during active operations. It ranks second to the DSO and is ranked before the Military Cross. It is a gallantry award which would have merited a second award of the DFC except to which a clear bar, with rounded ends, ornamented by a crown.

This award is available posthumously.

You can replace a Conspicuous Gallantry Cross if you meet the criteria.

Distinguished Service Cross (DSC)

The Distinguished Service Cross

The Distinguished Service Cross is an operational gallantry award given to all ranks of the services in recognition of exemplary gallantry during active operations. It ranks second to the DFC and is ranked before the Military Cross. It is a gallantry award which would have merited a second award of the DFC except to which a clear bar with ornamented by a crown.

This award is available posthumously.

You can replace a Distinguished Service Cross if you meet the criteria.

Military Cross (MC)

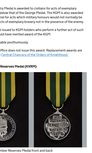
The Military Cross

The Military Cross is an operational gallantry award given to all ranks of the services in recognition of exemplary gallantry during active operations. It ranks second to the DSC and is ranked before the DFC. It is a gallantry award which would have merited a second MC, which is issued with a clear bar ornamented by the crown.

This award is available posthumously.

You can replace a Military Cross if you meet the criteria.

Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC)



The Distinguished Flying Cross

The Distinguished Flying Cross is an operational gallantry award given to all ranks of the services in recognition of exemplary gallantry during active operations. It ranks second to the MC and is ranked before the DFM. It is a gallantry award which would have merited a second award of the DFC except to which a clear bar ornamented by an eagle.

This award is available posthumously.

You can replace a Distinguished Flying Cross if you meet the criteria.

Air Force Cross (AFC)

The Air Force Cross

The Air Force Cross is an operational award given to all ranks of the services in recognition of exemplary gallantry while flying not in the presence of the enemy. It ranks second to the DFC and is ranked before the Military Cross. It is a gallantry award which would have merited the award of a second AFC except to which a clear bar.

This award is available posthumously.

You can replace an Air Force Cross if you meet the criteria.

Royal Red Cross Class II (RRC)

The Royal Red Cross (Class 2) Front and Back

These awards are only available to the nursing services and are not available posthumously.

You can replace a Royal Red Cross Class II if you meet the criteria.

George Medal (GM)

The George Medal Front and back

The George Medal is awarded for conspicuous gallantry not in the presence of the enemy. It ranks second to the GC and is ranked before the DSM. It is a further act of such bravery which would have merited award of a second GM.

This award is available posthumously.

The POGS Medal Office does not issue this award. Replacement awards are available from the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood.

King's Gallantry Medal (KGM)

The Queen's Gallantry Medal Front and back

The King's Gallantry Medal is awarded to civilians for acts of exemplary bravery of a level below that of the George Medal. The KGM is also awarded for acts of bravery in circumstances of great danger to persons other than those in uniform such as to acts of exemplary bravery not in the presence of the enemy.

A clear bar may be issued to KGM holders who perform a further act of such bravery which would have merited award of the KGM.

This award is available posthumously.

The POGS Medal Office does not issue this award. Replacement awards are available from the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood.

King's Volunteer Reserves Medal (KVRM)

The Queen's Volunteer Reserves Medal Front and back

The King's Volunteer Reserves Medal is a meritorious award given for members of any rank of the Volunteer Reserve Forces, for devotion to duty in circumstances of great danger to persons other than those of same that been of particular value and outstanding example to others.

This award is not available posthumously.

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The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal
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Pleniform in Desquiches

The Pleniform in Desquiches award

A Pleniform in Desquiches is an operational gallantry award given to all ranks for an act (or acts) of bravery during active operations. This award is available posthumously.

You can replace a Pleniform in Desquiches if you meet the criteria.

King's Commendation for Valuable Service

The King's Commendation for Valuable Service Award

A King's Commendation for Valuable Service is awarded for meritorious service in an operational theatre. This award is available posthumously.

You can replace a King's Commendation for Valuable Service if you meet the criteria.

King's Commendation for Bravery

The King's Commendation for Bravery is awarded for an act (or acts) of bravery not in the presence of the enemy. This award is available posthumously.

You can replace a King's Commendation for Bravery if you meet the criteria.

King's Commendation for Bravery in the Air

The King's Commendation for Bravery in the Air

The King's Commendation for Bravery in the Air is awarded for an act (or acts) of bravery while flying not in the presence of the enemy. This award is available posthumously.

You can replace a King's Commendation for Bravery in the Air if you meet the criteria.

World War I medals

All World War I medals were issued to the recipient or next of kin after the war ended.

You can verify (only if the medal was returned) and you can provide a medal name (only if you have the information).

The MOD Medal Office does not provide replacement World War I medals. You can buy replacas or original named medals from a medal dealer.

1914 Star

The 1914 Star was awarded to personnel who served in France and Belgium between 5 August and 22 November 1914.

1914-15 Star

The 1914-15 Star was awarded to personnel who saw service in any theatre of war between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915, other than those who had already qualified for the 1914 Star.

British War Medal 1914-20

The British War Medal was awarded to personnel in recognition of the hardships of the First World War. It was later extended until 1920 to cover more claiming services and operations in North and South Russia, the eastern Baltic, Siberia, the Black Sea and Turkey.

Victory Medal 1914-19

The Victory Medal was awarded to all personnel who mobiled the 1914 or the 1914-15 Stars. It often referred to as the Allied War Medal.

World War 2 Medals

You can apply for a Medal Box if medals if you meet the criteria.

Nine stars were issued for the campaigns of World War 2. The colours of the ribbons have symbolic significance and are believed to have been designed personally by King George V.

The 1939-45 Star ribbon can be awarded to one person. The retrospective introduction of the Arctic Star in 2013, following the Sir John Holmes Independent Medal Review, meant that a sixth start could be worn. In all cases it is only the Arctic Star that is the sixth star that can be worn.

Those who qualify for more are awarded a clasp with the title of one of the campaigns they qualify. The clasp is then attached to the ribbon of one of the other stars.

If you qualify for two or three of the Atlantic, Air Crew Europe and France and Germany stars, the first star earned is awarded. You will then receive a clasp with the second star earned, which is worn on the ribbon of the first. A third star or clasp will not be awarded in this case.

1939 to 1945 Star

1939 to 1945 Star

The 1939 to 1945 Star is awarded to personnel who completed operational service overseas between 3 September 1939 and 8 May 1945 (2 Sept 1945 in Far East).

To apply for the 1939 to 1945 Star, you must have:

- 180 days operational service in the army in the above qualifying areas
- 180 days operational service on ground crew in the RAF in the above qualifying areas
- 60 days operational service as an aircrew in the RAF in the above qualifying areas
- 180 days service afloat in operational areas in the Royal Navy in the above qualifying areas

The ribbon of the ribbon represent the three services. The star is worn with the blue edge furthest from the left shoulder.

Recipients of the 1939-45 Star may also be eligible for:

- Battle of Britain Clasp
- Bomber Command Clasp

Clasps are worn on the ribbon of the 1939 to 1945 Star.

To apply for the Battle of Britain Clasp to the 1939-45 Star, you must have:

- served as aircrew on a fighter aircraft
- been engaged in the Battle of Britain between 10 July 1940 and 31 October 1940

To apply for the Bomber Command Clasp to the 1939-45 Star, you must have:

- served as aircrew with a UK based Bomber Command Unit
- served between 3 September 1939 and 8 May 1945

Atlantic Star

The Atlantic Star

The Atlantic Star is awarded for operational service in the Atlantic and home waters between 3 September 1939 and 8 May 1945.

To apply for the Atlantic Star, you must have already qualified for the 1939 to 1945 Star and have an additional:

- 180 days operational service at sea in months afloat in the army in the above qualifying areas
- 180 days operational service afloat on ground crew in the RAF in the above qualifying areas
- 60 days operational service as aircrew in the RAF in the above qualifying areas
- 180 days afloat in operational areas in the Royal Navy in the above qualifying areas

The colours of ribbon represent the Atlantic Ocean. The Atlantic Star is worn with the blue edge furthest from the left shoulder.

Air Crew Europe Star

Air Crew Europe Star

The Air Crew Europe Star is earned almost exclusively by RAF personnel for operations from UK bases over Europe between 3 September 1939 and 5 June 1944.

To apply for the Air Crew Europe Star, you must have already qualified for the 1939 to 1945 Star and have an additional:

- 60 days operational flying in the army in the above qualifying areas
- 60 days operational flying for the RAF in the above qualifying areas
- 60 days operational flying for the Royal Navy in the above qualifying areas

The ribbon colours of the ribbon represent the sea, night flying and enemy searchlights to symbolise the continuous service of the Fortuna Knight and Wg.

Arctic Star

Arctic Star

The Arctic Star is awarded for operational service at leg-length north of the Arctic Circle between 3 September 1939 and 8 May 1945. The star commemorates the Arctic Convoys that sailed to North Russia in support of the Russian allies.

To apply for the Arctic Star, you must have:

- service of any length either afloat or as part of land operations north of the Arctic Circle in the army, Royal Navy, Merchant Navy, and RAF ground crew
- service of any length in RAF aircrew who landed or served in the air north of the Arctic Circle
- approved crews who served in support of military operations north of the Arctic Circle

Africa Star

Africa Star

The Africa Star is awarded to personnel who served in North Africa, Malta or Egypt between 10 June 1940 and 12 May 1943.

To apply for the Africa Star, you must have:

- one day of operational service in the army in the above qualifying areas
- one day of operational service on ground crew in the RAF in the above qualifying areas
- one operational sortie as aircrew in the RAF in the above qualifying areas
- one day afloat in the Mediterranean in the Royal Navy

The colours of the ribbon represent the desert, the Italian campaign and the sea.

Pacific Star / Malaya, Singapore and the Pacific Ocean

The Pacific Star

The Pacific Star is awarded for operational service in Malaya, Singapore, China, Hong Kong or Sumatra between 8 December 1941 and 2 September 1945.

To apply for the Pacific Star, you must have:

- one day of operational service in the army in the above qualifying areas
- one day of operational service on ground crew in the RAF in the above qualifying areas
- one operational sortie as aircrew in the RAF in the above qualifying areas
- one day of operational service in the above qualifying areas in the Royal Navy and already qualified for the 1939 to 1945 Star

The colours of the ribbon represent the jungle, the beach and the three services.

If you also qualify for the Burma Star, you will only be awarded the first star you earned. You will then receive a clasp with the title of the second star earned, which is worn on the ribbon of the first.

Burma Star

The Burma Star

The Burma Star is awarded for operational service in Burma between 11 December 1941 and 2 September 1945. It was also issued to Merchant Navies in India and China, Hong Kong, Malaya or Sumatra between other specified dates long after quality.

To apply for the Burma Star, you must have:

- one day of operational service in the army in the above qualifying areas
- one day of operational service on ground crew in the RAF in the above qualifying areas
- one operational sortie as aircrew in the RAF in the above qualifying areas
- one day afloat on operational service in the above qualifying areas in the Royal Navy and already qualified for the 1939 to 1945 Star

The colours of the ribbon represent the sun, British and Commonwealth forces.

If you also qualify for the Pacific Star, you will only be awarded the first star earned. You will then receive a clasp with the title of the second star earned which is worn on the ribbon of the first.

Italy Star

The Italy Star

The Italy Star is awarded for operational service in Sicily or Italy between 11 July 1943 and 8 May 1945. Those who served in Yugoslavia, Greece, Corsica or Sardinia between certain other specified dates also qualify.

To apply for the Italy Star, you must have:

- one day of operational service in the army in the above qualifying areas
- one day of operational service on ground crew in the RAF in the above qualifying areas
- one operational sortie as aircrew in the RAF in the above qualifying areas
- one day afloat on operational service in the above qualifying areas in the Royal Navy and already qualified for the 1939 to 1945 Star

The colours of the ribbon represent the national colours of Italy.

France and Germany Star

The France and Germany Star

The France and Germany Star is awarded for operational service in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands or Germany between 6 June 1944 and 8 May 1945.

To apply for the France and Germany Star, you must have:

- one day of operational service in the army in the above qualifying areas
- one day of operational service on ground crew in the RAF in the above qualifying areas
- one operational sortie as aircrew in the RAF in the above qualifying areas
- one day afloat in operational areas of the North Sea in the Royal Navy (provided service was directly in support of land operations)

The colours of the ribbon represent the national colours of the United Kingdom, France and The Netherlands.

Defence Medal

The Defence Medal Front and Back

The Defence Medal is awarded for non-operational service such as those serving in the Home Guard, Civil Defence, Merchant Navy, Coastal Forces and members of the Home Guard. The medal is also awarded for non-operational service overseas for example in India or South Africa.

To apply for the Defence Medal, you must have either:

- 1000 days (2 years) service in the UK between 3 Sep 1939 and 8 May 1945
- 1000 days (2 years) service in the Home Guard between 14 May 1940 and 31 Dec 1944 (you will also need to fill out and send the Home Guard Supplementary Form)
- 365 days (1 year) non-operational service overseas between 3 Sep 1939 and 15 Aug 1945 (this includes service in the Home Guard between 14 May 1940 and 31 Dec 1944 (you will also need to fill out and send the Home Guard Supplementary Form)

and 2 Sea 1945

- Who served operational service in an overseas area deemed to be closely allied to, or equivalent to, an area listed in Schedule 1 Section 1(b) and 2 Sea 1945

The colours of the ribbon symbolise enemy attacks on Britain's 'green and pleasant land' and the black cut.

War Medal 1939 to 1945

War Medal 1939 to 1945 front and back

The War Medal is awarded to all full time personnel of the armed forces wherever they were serving. The medal was granted in addition to campaign stars and the Defence Medal.

To apply for the War Medal, you must have served at least 28 days between 3 September 1939 and 2 September 1945.

The colours of the ribbon represent the Union Jack.

Legion d'Honneur

The Legion d'Honneur is issued by the French Government to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Normandy Landings.

This medal is not issued by the MOD Medal Office. Find out how you can apply for the Legion d'Honneur

Post World War 2 campaign medals

General Service Medal 1918-62

General Service Medal 1918 to 1962 with Malaya clasp front and back

The General Service Medal (GSM) 1918-1962 was awarded to army and RAF personnel who served in the qualifying criteria for service in any of the following geographical areas:

- South Persia
- Kurdistan
- Iraq
- North West Persia
- Southern Desert Iraq
- Northern Kurdistan
- Palestine
- Aden East Aden 1945 to 1946
- Palestine 1945 to 1948
- Malaya
- Cyprus
- Near East
- Arabian Peninsula
- Brunei
- Canal Zone

The medal is also awarded for:

- Borneo and Pleni Clearance 1945 to 1949
- Borneo and Pleni Clearance 1945 to 1956
- Berlin Airlift

If you think you might be eligible, contact the MOD Medal Office.

If your application is successful, you'll be awarded the GSM with a clasp for the relevant geographical area.

If you become eligible for a further clasp, you will not get a second medal. The clasp should be added to the RAF GSM medal ribbon, worn above the first clasp.

Royal General Service Medal 1970

Royal General Service Medal 1970 - front and back

The Royal General Service Medal (GSM) 1970 was awarded to Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel who meet the qualifying criteria for service in any of the following geographical areas:

- Palestine 1936-1939
- South-East Asia 1945-49
- Palestine 1945-48
- Malaya
- Ianglys 1949
- Canal Zone
- Cyprus
- Iraq 1941
- Arabian Peninsula
- Brunei

The medal is also awarded for:

- Pleneuagong 1949-51
- Borneo and Pleni Clearance 1945-49
- Borneo and Pleni Clearance 1945-51
- Borneo and Pleni Clearance Mediterranean
- Berlin Airlift

If you think you might be eligible, contact the MOD Medal Office.

If your application is successful, you'll be awarded the Royal GSM with a clasp for the relevant geographical area.

If you become eligible for a further clasp, you will not get a second medal. The clasp should be added to the Royal GSM medal ribbon, worn above the first clasp.

The Africa General Service Medal with Kenya Clasp

Africa Medal - Front and back

The Africa Medal with Kenya Clasp is awarded for 30 days or more service within designated operational areas in Kenya.

To apply for the Africa General Service Medal With Kenya Clasp, you must have served:

- 30 days or more service in Kenya during the period 21st October 1952 and 12th December 1956 inclusive.

Korea Medal

The Korea Medal front and back

The Korea Medal is awarded to personnel who participated in the Korean War between 2 July 1950 and 27 July 1953.

To apply for the Korea Medal, you must have either:

- 1 day of service on land in Korea in the army, RAF or Royal Navy
- 1 operational sortie over Korea or Korean Waters in the RAF
- 28 days service afloat on ships or crafts engaged in operations off the Korean coast in the Royal Navy

General Service Medal 1962-2007

The General Service Medal 1962 to 2007 with Cyprus clasp front and back

The General Service Medal (GSM) 1962-2007 is awarded to army, RAF, Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel who meet the qualifying criteria for service in any of the following geographical areas:

- Borneo
- Cyprus 1955-59
- Radfan
- South Arabia
- Malay Peninsula
- Northern Ireland
- Dhofar
- Lebanon
- Gulf
- Kuwait 2
- North Iraq and South Turkey

The medal is also awarded for:

- Pleni Clearance, Gulf of Suez
- Air Operations Iraq

If you think you might be eligible, contact the MOD Medal Office.

If your application is successful, you'll be awarded a GSM with a clasp for the relevant geographical area. If you become eligible for a further clasp, you will not get a second medal. The clasp should be added to the GSM ribbon, worn above the first clasp.

Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal

Pingat Jasa Malaysia (PJM) Medal is issued by the Malaysian Government to British personnel who served in Malaya between 31st August 1957 and 12 days or more in Malaysia and Singapore. The qualifying dates are:

- Malaysia during the period 31 August 1957 and 31 August 1963 inclusive
- Singapore during the period 3 August 1957 and 9 August 1965 inclusive

Applications for the PJM Medal are processed by the Malaysian Government. All applications must be endorsed an official organisation such as the Malaysian Embassy or the Malaysian Ministry of Defence in London.

The MOD Medal Office can endorse an application for the PJM Medal. If you think you might be eligible, complete the Pingat Jasa Malaysia (PJM) medal application form (PR) Word Document, 49.7 KB) and send to the MOD Medal Office for endorsement.

The PJM Medal is not issued by the MOD Medal Office.

South Atlantic Medal

The South Atlantic Medal front and back

The South Atlantic Medal was awarded for service in the Falklands Islands, the dependencies, or in the South Atlantic between 2 April 1982 and 14 June 1982.

To apply for the South Atlantic Medal and clasp, you must have either:

- one day of service in the Falkland Islands or their dependencies, or in the South Atlantic, south of 35 south and north of 60 south before 14 June 1982
- one operational sortie south of Ascension Island before 14 June 1982

To apply for the South Atlantic Medal without the rosette, you must have:

- 30 days service or more in the South Atlantic, south of 1 south and north of 60 south
- completed service no later than 31 October 1982

The colours of the ribbon symbolise the Atlantic Ocean.

Gulf Medal 1990-1991

Gulf Medal with 16 and 16-28 February 1991 clasp front and back

The Gulf Medal was awarded to personnel for service in the areas of operations in the Middle East.

To apply for the Gulf medal only, you must have:

- 30 days continuous service between 2 August 1990 and 7 March 1991
- served in the area of operations as defined in the regulations

To apply for the medal with clasp '16 Jan to 28 Feb 1991', you must have:

- seven days continuous service between 16 Jan and 28 Feb 1991
- served in the area of operations as defined in the regulations

To apply for the medal with clasp '2 Aug 1990', you must have:

- been a member of the Kuwait Liaison Team
- served in Kuwait on 2 August 1990

The colours of the ribbon represent the desert landscape and the three services.

Kuwait Liberation Medal and the Saudi Liberation of Kuwait Medal

The governments of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia issued these medals to the allied personnel who had taken part in the liberation of Kuwait.

The Queen granted permission for British service personnel to accept but not wear these medals.

Operational Service Medal - Iraq and Syria

Operational Service medal in Iraq and Syria

The Operational Service Medal (OSM) Iraq and Syria is awarded to personnel who participated in Operations Shader and Inherent Resolve. The medal is an unrated or significant and direct contribution outside of Iraq and Syria. Its Operation SHADER since 9 August 2014 (and later to be decided).

To apply for the Operational Service Medal, you must have either Iraq and Syria as your main operational theatre:

- 30 days continuous in 90 days cumulative operational service in the international boundaries of Iraq and Syria
- 15 operational sorties over Iraq and/or six operational sorties over Syria with the RAF

To apply for the Operational Service Medal Iraq and Syria, without clasp Iraq and Syria you must have either:

- 30 hours on an Operation SHADER mission as an RPAS pilot, sensor or mission supervisor/commander
- 180 days continuous or 90 days cumulative service with significant support or direct contribution to Op SHADER with specific units and specified members, which include 16 Medical Corps, Cyprus, Jordan, Kuwait and Turkey

The Iraq and Syria clasp is to be worn on the ribbon of this medal, denoting the risk and rigour of the task. The colours of the ribbon represent the large number of airforces used in the operation, and the three services.

Operational Service Medal - Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone Medal

The Operational Service Medal (OSM) Sierra Leone is awarded to personnel who completed operational service in Sierra Leone or the Joint Operational Area between 5 May 2000 to 31 July 2002.

To apply for the Operational Service Medal, Sierra Leone, you must have either:

- one day of service on Op Barras or Op Palatinate
- 14 days continuous or accumulated service on Op Palatine
- 30 days continuous or accumulated service on Op Basilica or Silkman

A silver rosette may be issued for service on Operations Plaiderig and Barras. The rosette is worn on the ribbon of the OSM.

The colours of the ribbon represent the jungle and the three services.

Operational Service Medal - Afghanistan

The Afghanistan Medal with Clasp front and back

The Operational Service Medal (OSM) Afghanistan is awarded to personnel who complete operational service on or in support of operations in Afghanistan from 11 September 2001.

You'll automatically receive the medal if you're currently serving and have completed 30 days or more service in Afghanistan. If you've left the armed forces and your medal and clasp you might be entitled, speak to your CoH HR.

To apply for the Operational Service Medal, Afghanistan, you must have:

- served under the command of the UK Joint Task Force Commander
- 30 days continuous service or 90 days aggregated service
- served in either Zone 1 or Zone 2 (service in Zone 3 will be recognised with a clasp to be issued)

Personnel in Support of Op Pitting who have completed either five days of service or three on sorties between the 14th and the 28th of August 2021 are entitled to the Op Pitting Clasp.

The colours of the ribbon represent the landscape of Afghanistan and the three services.

Operational Service Medal - Democratic Republic of Congo

The Democratic Republic of Congo Medal

The Operational Service Medal (OSM) Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is awarded to personnel who completed operational service in Bania in the Ituri Province in the Democratic Republic of Congo between 6 June and 15 September 2003.

To apply for the Operational Service Medal, DRC, you must have either:

- 30 days operational service
- five operational sorties with the RAF

The Operational Service Medal will be issued with a DRC clasp which should be worn on the ribbon.

The colours of the ribbon represent the landscape of DRC and the three services.

Iraq Medal

The Iraq Medal with 10 Rosettes (28 Apr 2003 Clasp front and back)

The Iraq medal is awarded to personnel who completed operational service in Iraq between 20 January 2003 and 22 May 2010.

To be considered for the medal with clasp 10 Rosettes – 28 Apr 03 – you must have:

- served in Zone One between 19 March 03 and 28 April 03
- completed seven days continuous service, or
- served as stores flying into Zone One and completed two or more operational sorties (no more than one sortie per day)

To be considered for the medal only, you must have:

- completed 30 days continuous service in either Zone One or Zone Two, or
- served as stores flying into Zone One or Two, or
- served as aircrew based outside of Iraq and completed 10 operational sorties (no more than 1 sortie per day) TO&E duties between stores or operational flying between Zone One and Zone Two

The clasp is to be worn on the ribbon of the medal. The colours of the ribbon represent the Iraq landscape.

Criteria for this medal is complex and the above is a quick one. If you think you might be eligible, contact the POC Medal Office.

General Service Medal 2018

The General Service Medal (2018) Medal with Southern Asia Clasp front and back

The General Service Medal (GSM) (2018) is awarded to army, RAF, Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel who served on operations from 1 January 2018 in the following geographical areas:

- Eastern Africa
- Western Africa
- Arabian Peninsula
- Northern Africa
- Southern Asia
- Gulf of Aden

In order to qualify for the above clasps, specific criteria must be met. You'll receive the clasp that you qualify for, if you qualify for more than one clasp you don't need to apply. If you have not received your medal and think you might be entitled, speak to your Unit HR.

Reference or Next of Kin should apply to the POC Medal Office.

If your application is successful, you'll be awarded the GSM with a clasp for the relevant geographical area.

If you become eligible for further clasps, you will not get a second medal. The clasp should be added to the GSM medal ribbon, worn above the first clasp.

It is expected that further operations and clasps will be added to the GSM (18 Clasp) in future years. The GSM (18 Clasp) will replace the GSM (Clasp) which operations qualify for the GSM (18), not the POCO Medal Office.

Elsie Medal

Elsie Medal for service in West Africa front and back

The Elsie Medal is awarded for service in the Joint Operational Area within West Africa between 23 March 2014 and 29 March 2016.

Applications for the Elsie Medal are no longer being processed.

Jubilee medals

HM The Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal 1977

HM The Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal

The Silver Jubilee Medal was awarded to personnel to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II accession.

The POCO Medal Office no longer issues this medal.

HM The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal 2002

HM The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal

The Golden Jubilee Medal was awarded to personnel to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II accession.

To apply for the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, you must:

- have been in effective service on 6 February 2002 and
- completed a minimum of five years reckonable service and were enrolled on or before 7 February 1997 and
- served with the regular, reserve or cadet forces
- as a reserve, obtained five annual training year certificates of efficiency, one of which must have been for training year 2001/2002

The medal was issued unnamed.

HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal 2012

HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal

The Diamond Jubilee Medal was awarded to personnel to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II accession.

To apply for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, you must have:

- been in effective service on 6 February 2012 and
- completed a minimum of five years' reckonable service and were enrolled on or before 7 February 2007 and
- served with the regular, reserve or cadet forces
- as a reserve, obtained five annual training year certificates of efficiency, one of which must have been for training year 2011/2012

The medal was issued unnamed.

HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal

HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal - front and back

The Platinum Jubilee Medal was awarded to personnel to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II accession.

To apply for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal, you must have:

- served with the regular, reserve or cadet forces
- been in effective service on 6 February 2022 and
- completed a minimum of four years' reckonable service and were enrolled on or before 7 February 2017 and
- served in the regular, reserve or cadet forces
- as a reserve, obtained four annual training year certificates of efficiency, one of which must have been for training year 2021/2022

The medal was issued unnamed.

The King's Coronation Medal 2023

The King's Coronation Medal 2023 front and back

The King's Coronation Medal was awarded to recognise members of the Armed Forces, frontline emergency service workers and people actively contributing to The King's Coronation.

The King's Coronation Medal is awarded to:

- Members of the Armed Forces, Civil Service and those from MOD Executive Agencies who have been nominated by their Chain of Command to the official constitutional Coronation events, including events in the Deceased Administrations, Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories
- Serving members of the Armed Forces who have completed the full qualifying period of service for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal
- Members of the Armed Forces who participate in Armed Forces Coronation events throughout the rest of 2023, such as official gun salutes, parades, or presentations of regimental colours.

The Medal is issued unnamed.

Current Meritorious and Long Service medals

Meritorious Service Medal

The Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) recognises long term service in the armed forces of non commissioned ranks. Officers may be considered immediately after commissioning.

You cannot apply for this medal, it's only issued to current serving personnel who have been recommended by the commanding officer.

To be considered, you must:

- have 22 years' reckonable service
- be at least a substantial sergeant or equivalent
- be in a position of responsibility and exemplary conduct (Note
- have been subject to 'good, faithful, valuable and meritorious' with conduct judged to be 'irreproachable' throughout

The Service Boards look for evidence of particular achievements, either in the course of or outside of military duty. These can include:

- achievements which benefit the service in the public, for example community engagement with local councils or cadet forces
- achievements in the field of sport
- charity work

A limited number are awarded each year.

Service boards consider recommendations in April and October every year. To find out how to nominate someone go to:

- Royal Navy: BR1818
- Royal Marines: Regulations paragraphs 5.302, 10.006 to 10.007 and DRN 20202/2005 (GD for additional information)
- RAF: AP 1192, Volume 4, Leaflet 2006, Annex A

Accumulated Campaign Service Medal

Accumulated Campaign Service Medal

The Accumulated Campaign Service Medal (ACSM) is awarded to army, RAF, Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel to recognise continued campaign service.

To apply for the ACSM, you must have completed 1,095 days aggregated (3 years) of qualifying service which would have ended:

- Operational Service Medal (2003) (Northern Ireland, Air Ops Iraq)
- Iraq Medal (Service Medal/Service clasp, Afghanistan)
- an Iraq Medal

If your aggregated service falls short of 1,095 days by 1 January 2008, the service will go towards the ACSM (2011).

If you go on to complete a further 1,095 days aggregated service by 31 December 2012, you will be awarded a bar. The bar is worn on the ribbon of the ACSM.

Accumulated Campaign Service Medal 2011

The Accumulated Campaign Service Medal 2011

The Accumulated Campaign Service Medal (ACSM) (2011) is awarded to army, RAF, Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel to recognise continued campaign service.

To apply for the ACSM (2011), you must have completed 1,095 days aggregated service and be serving either on or after 1 January 2008.

Your service must have ended:

- Operational Service Medal (2003) (Northern Ireland, Air Ops Iraq)
- Operational Service Medal (Sierra Leone, Afghanistan)
- an Iraq Medal

If you go on to complete a further 1,095 days aggregated service, you will be awarded a bar. The bar is worn on the ribbon of the ACSM. You can receive more than one bar.

Royal Naval Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

Royal Navy Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

The Long Service and Good Conduct (LSGC) Medal for the Royal Navy is awarded to personnel in recognition of long service. The regulations were updated on 1 October 2016.

To qualify, you must have:

- 15 years' reckonable service in the Navy
- a clear record with no misconduct for at least the last 15 years
- been serving on or after 28 July 2016, if you're an officer
- been serving on or after 1 October 2016, if you're an 'other rank'
- have at 3 instead subject with character subject to lower than 'very good'

You don't need to apply if you're currently serving. The POCO medals office is currently processing applications. Talk to your unit HR or go to 20062/9009 (GD or 240 (SD) for more information.

If you have a disciplinary entry on your record, you will need to wait 15 years from the date of your last offence before you will be eligible again. You should apply through your unit HR.

If you have been discharged and are eligible you should apply to the POCO Medal Office.

For every additional 10 years' service with a clear record you'll be issued a clasp. For example, if you qualify and have served 26 years you will receive the medal and clasp.

Army Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

The Army Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

The Long Service and Good Conduct (LSGC) Medal for the army is awarded to personnel in recognition of long service. The regulations were updated on 1 October 2016.

To qualify, you must have:

- 15 years' reckonable service in the army
- a clear record with no misconduct for at least the last 15 years
- been serving on or after 28 July 2016, if you're an officer
- been serving on or after 1 October 2016, if you're an 'other rank'

You don't need to apply if you're currently serving. The POCO medals office is currently processing applications. Talk to your unit HR or go to 20062/9009 (GD or 240 (SD) for more information.

If you have a disciplinary entry on your record, you will need to wait 15 years from the date of your last offence before you will be eligible again. You should apply through your unit HR.

If you have been discharged and are eligible you should apply to the POCO Medal Office.

For every additional 10 years' service with a clear record you'll be issued a clasp. For example, if you qualify and have served 26 years you will receive the medal and clasp.

Royal Air Force Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

The RAF Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

The Long Service and Good Conduct (LSGC) Medal for the Royal Air Force is awarded to personnel in recognition of long service. The regulations were updated on 1 October 2016.

To qualify, you must have:

- 15 years' reckonable service in the RAF
- a clear record with no misconduct for at least the last 15 years
- been serving on or after 28 July 2016, if you're an officer
- been serving on or after 1 October 2016, if you're an 'other rank'

You don't need to apply if you're currently serving. The POCO medals office is currently processing applications. Talk to your unit HR or go to 20062/9009 (GD or 240 (SD) for more information.

If you have a disciplinary entry on your record, you will need to wait 15 years from the date of your last offence before you will be eligible again. You should apply through your unit HR.

If you have been discharged and are eligible you should apply to the POCO Medal Office.

For every additional 10 years' service with a clear record you'll be issued a clasp. For example, if you qualify and have served 26 years you will receive the medal and clasp.

Volunteer Reserves Service Medal

The Volunteer Reserves Service Medal

The Volunteer Reserves Service Medal (VRSM) replaced the separate medals that used to be issued to personnel of the separate Reserve Forces in April 1999.

The VRSM is awarded to both officers and other ranks of the:

- Royal Naval and Royal Marine Reserves
- Army Reserves (formerly the Territorial Army)
- Royal Auxiliary Air Force

These medals may still be issued for qualifying service ending before 1 April 1999:

- Royal Naval Reserve Decoration
- Reserve Long Service and Good Conduct Medal for the Royal Navy and Royal Marine Reserve
- Territorial Decoration
- Efficiency Medal for the Army Reserve
- Air Efficiency Award for the Royal Auxiliary Air Force

To be considered for the VRSM, you must have:

- 10 years' reckonable service in the Reserve Forces
- earned a training bounty in nine out of the 10 qualifying years
- to have completed a full years training in the year that the 9th bounty was awarded
- to be serving in the Volunteer Reserves on or after 1 April 1999

If you go on to serve an additional five years reckonable service you'll be issued a clasp. The clasp should be worn on the ribbon of the VRSM.

There are complex rules for service that has been both regular and reserve.

If you think you might be eligible, please contact your Unit HR or apply to the MOD Medal Office.

Further information can be found in DCI JS 53/99 and AP3392 Vol 7 Leaflet 702 Annex B.

Cadet Forces Medal

The Cadet Forces Medal

The Cadet Forces Medal is awarded in recognition of long service in the MOD Sponsored Cadet Forces.

To be considered, you must:

- be a uniformed cadet force adult volunteer
- have completed 12 years' qualifying service

All uniformed service in the cadet forces over the age of 18 may be aggregated to fulfil the relevant qualifying period: breaks in service are allowed but are not to be counted towards the length of qualifying service. Up to three years' service with any of the following may be used towards the qualifying service for the medal provided it has not been used towards another medal:

- Regular Forces
- Volunteer Reserve Forces
- University Royal Naval Units
- University Officer Training Corps
- University Air Squadrons

A Clasp will be awarded for each six years' additional qualifying service (Before 1 April 1991, clasps were awarded for eight years' additional service). Recommendations for the award of medals and clasps are to be made by cadet units in accordance with the Cadet Forces Medal Regulations published in JSP 814, Policy and Regulations for MOD Sponsored Cadet Forces.

The Elizabeth Cross: Died on Operations Recognition Award

The Elizabeth Cross and miniature

The Elizabeth Cross and Memorial Scroll are granted to the next of kin of regular, reserve or Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel who have died on operations, or as a result of an act of terrorism since 1 January 1948:

- whilst serving on an operation in which personnel received a Campaign Medal, GSM or OSM
- whilst serving on an operation in which personnel received a UN, NATO (or other international body) or another nations' campaign medal in the absence of a UK medal
- as a result of an act of terrorism where the available evidence suggests they were targeted because of their membership of the UK armed forces
- on a non medal earning operational task where death has been caused by the inherent high risk of the task
- a subsequent and premature death as a result of an injury or illness attributed to the circumstances outlined above

Recipients and how to apply

You can apply for both the Elizabeth Cross and Memorial Scroll if you are the next of kin.

An additional Memorial Scroll only is available to the following where they are not the next of kin:

- the parents of the deceased
- the spouse or partner of the deceased, or someone who had a substantive relationship with the deceased (a substantive relationship is generally based on joint financial commitment and will have to be proved by the applicant)

If you think you might be eligible, contact the MOD Medal Office.

Order of wear

There are strict rules surrounding the wearing of medals and decorations.

The latest full list of the British Orders of Knighthood, decorations, medals and the order of wear can be found in the 2019 publication of The London Gazette

You can contact the Medals Office if you have a query about the order of wear.

Wearing of medals

You should only wear official decorations, medals or emblems that you are entitled to and have been approved for acceptance and wear. Unofficial medals should not be worn with official orders, decorations and medals.

If you are the next of kin of a deceased service person, it is common practice to wear your relative's decorations and medals as a mark of remembrance. It is custom to wear medals on the right breast in civilian dress only, official approval is not required to wear relative's medals.

Current serving personnel should not wear relative's medals or unofficial medals whilst wearing uniform.

Ensure that your replica and miniature medals are bought from an officially licensed replica medal manufacturer. The merchandise licensing programme generates much needed revenue for our Armed Forces welfare funds that supports Serving and Ex-Serving members of the Armed Forces and their families.

If you suspect any replica and miniature medals are unlicensed please report to DIPR-Enforcement@mod.gov.uk

Unofficial medals

The MOD Medal Office does not issue unofficial medals (such as the National Defence Medal, Veterans Star, British Army of the Rhine Medal, etc.).

Unofficial medals, sometimes referred to as 'commemorative' medals, are usually designed and manufactured by private medal companies to commemorate some form of service with the Armed Forces, usually where no official MOD recognition has been previously given.

These medals have not been approved by The Sovereign, nor granted permission to wear, and cannot be mounted with official orders, decorations and medals.

A recent practice of wearing unofficial medals mounted on a separate medal bar has been noted, however, this also carries no form of official endorsement.

Contact the MOD Medal Office

Journalists who are not enquiring about medals should refer to the media enquiries guidance on Ministry of Defence

You can contact the Medal Office in writing or via email.

DBS-Medals@mod.gov.uk

MOD Medal Office
Room G36
Innsworth House
Imjin Barracks
Gloucester
GL3 1HW

Telephone enquiries are handled by the Joint Personnel Administration Centre (JPAC).

Freephone (UK only): 0800 085 3600

Telephone (from overseas): +44 141 224 3600

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