



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

SALUTING THEIR SERVICE

**GUIDELINES FOR THE ISSUE OF
CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION**

WHAT ARE CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION?

Certificates of Appreciation are available under the Australian Government's *Saluting Their Service* Commemorations Program. They are a way of expressing the nation's gratitude to those who served in Australia's defence forces or on the home front in the Second World War or in wars, conflicts and peace operations overseas since the Second World War.

They do not confer any eligibility for entitlements under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*, *the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* or *the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988*.

WHO CAN APPLY?

- Veterans and those who served in the wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations for which certificates are available.
- Family members on behalf of deceased eligible persons.

WHAT SERVICE QUALIFIES FOR A CERTIFICATE?

Service with Australia's defence forces in wars, conflicts or peace operations. Service on the home front during the Second World War, or service with Australia's logistics support in Vietnam, during the specified dates qualify for a Certificate of Appreciation.

HOME FRONT SERVICE:

- Home front service qualifies for a Certificate of Appreciation for the Second World War as this was a period of national mobilisation, and there was direct and widespread civilian involvement in supporting the war effort.

LOGISTICS SUPPORT IN VIETNAM:

- Logistics support in Vietnam includes for example; RAN ships and Qantas charter crews carrying troops and supplies from Vietnam, Red Cross, Salvation Army workers, medical staff and civilian entertainers supporting Australian service personnel in Vietnam between 31 July 1962 and 11 January 1973.

INFORMATION ON MILITARY SERVICE AND PEACE OPERATIONS:

- Information on military service and peace operations is taken from the Department of Defence (Defence Honours and Awards) website: <http://www.defence.gov.au/Medals/>
- DVA will undertake an annual review of the ADF website and these guidelines to ensure accuracy of the information.

THE ELIGIBLE WARS, CONFLICTS AND PEACE OPERATIONS ARE LISTED BELOW.
PLEASE CLICK ON THE LINK PROVIDED AND THEN THE COUNTRY/REGION TO SEE THE
 REQUIRED DATES OF SERVICE FOR THE APPLICANT TO QUALIFY FOR A CERTIFICATE.

NOTE:

- Certificates of Appreciation for Peace Operations will be issued as “Peace Operations” and will not specifically note the theatre of operations (eg Peace Operations in the Balkans will be issued as “Peace Operations”).

AUSTRALIAN SERVICE 1945-75

KOREA	MALAYA	MALAYSIA	THAILAND	THAI-MALAY	VIETNAM
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AUSTRALIAN SERVICE SINCE 1975

BALKANS	CAMBODIA	EAST TIMOR	ICAT (INTERNATIONAL COALITION AGAINST TERRORISM)	IRAQ	IRAQ 2003
KUWAIT	MIDDLE EAST	NAMIBIA	RWANDA	SIERRA LEONE	SOMALIA
VIETNAM 1975					

PEACE OPERATIONS 1945-75

BERLIN	FESR (FAR EAST STRATEGIC RESERVE)	GERMANY	INDONESIA	JAPAN	KASHMIR
KOREA	MIDDLE EAST	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	SOUTH EAST ASIA	SPECIAL OPERATIONS	SOUTH WEST PACIFIC
THAILAND	WEST NEW GUINEA				

PEACE OPERATIONS SINCE 1975

BALKANS	BOUGAINVILLE	CAMBODIA	COUNTER TERRORISM/ SPECIAL RECOVERY (CT/SR)	EAST TIMOR	ETHIOPIA/ERITREA
GUATEMALA	GULF	HAITI	IRAN/IRAQ	IRAQ	
IRIAN JAYA	KASHMIR	KOREA	KUWAIT	LEBANON	MIDDLE EAST
MOZAMBIQUE	PESHAWAR	SOUTH EAST ASIA	SINAI	SOLOMON ISLANDS I	SOLOMON ISLANDS II
SOMALIA	SOUTH PACIFIC 2006	SOUTH SUDAN	SPECIAL OPERATIONS	SUDAN	TIMOR-LESTE
UGANDA	WEST SAHARA				

AUSTRALIAN OPERATIONAL SERVICE MEDAL - BORDER PROTECTION AND GREATER MIDDLE EAST OPERATIONS

Certificates will also be issued for Border Protection and Greater Middle East Operations. Details of eligible dates can be found by clicking on the following link.

<http://www.defence.gov.au/Medals/Australian/Since-1975/Australian-Operational-Service-Medal.asp>

WHAT EVIDENCE OF SERVICE IS REQUIRED?

- Service Record showing service during the relevant period and, for post-Second World War certificates, service in the relevant country during the period of conflict; or
- Service Record showing eligibility for medal(s) for the relevant conflict; or
- Medal(s) for the relevant conflicts, inscribed with the veteran's name and service number (on the rim or reverse), or photograph(s) of inscribed medals; or
- Copies of entries from the Second World War, Korean War or Vietnam War Nominal Rolls (<http://nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au>)
- In the case of applicants for a Second World War certificate, evidence or a Statutory Declaration attesting to service on the home front.

In the case of home front service, the applicant may not be able to produce supporting documentation. In these circumstances, a statement detailing their contribution should be accepted.

HOW ARE APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED?

Application forms are available from Federal MPs' offices, DVA Offices or can be downloaded from the Department of Veterans' Affairs website at: <https://www.dva.gov.au/about-dva/dva-forms> (click on Forms by Topics and click on 'C' select Certificate of Appreciation forms).

Applicants should complete the application form and submit the completed form to their Federal Member.

Eligibility is decided by the Federal Member, in accordance with these guidelines.

HOW ARE CERTIFICATES ISSUED?

Only one Certificate per conflict should be issued in relation to a person's service.

The Federal Member selects the conflict or peace operation applied for from the available list in the drop down box, inserts the veteran's name and their own name in the spaces provided and signs the Certificate. The certificate may be presented personally or posted. Where a Certificate is posted, a covering letter must accompany the certificate.

As Certificates of Appreciation are valued highly by recipients, Federal Members may wish to present a number of Certificates at the same time in local ceremonies. Local media coverage of such events assists in promoting the availability of Certificates to other eligible veterans in the community.

WHEN ARE CERTIFICATES NOT AVAILABLE?

CERTIFICATES ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR:

BOER WAR AND FIRST WORLD WAR:

- Certificates are designed primarily for living veterans to express the nation's gratitude for their service. The number of surviving veterans of conflicts other than the First World War is such that the primary purpose of personal recognition is maintained. All Australian First World War veterans are now deceased and cannot be personally recognised.
- Surviving First World War veterans were formally recognised with a medal specific to their service by the Federal Government under the Australian Honours and Awards System.

NATIONAL SERVICE:

- Certificates are event-based and do not relate to forms of enlistment such as national service.
- National servicemen were recognised in 2001 through the issue of the *Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal*. Information and an on-line application for this Medal is available through the Department of Defence at:
<http://www.defence.gov.au/Medals/Australian/Anniversary-National-Service-Medal.asp>
- National servicemen who served in Vietnam are eligible for this award.

DEFENCE RESERVE FORCES:

- Certificates are event-based and do not relate to forms of enlistment such as reserve forces.
- Reserve service may be recognised, if certain criteria are met, through the issue of the *Reserve Force Medal*. Information and an on-line application for this Medal is available through the Department of Defence at:
<http://www.defence.gov.au/Medals/Australian/Long-Service/Reserve-Force-Medal.asp>
- Reserve personnel who served in one of the above Peace Operations theatres for which Certificates of Appreciation are available may qualify for that certificate.

WHERE CAN MORE INFORMATION BE OBTAINED?

Enquiries about eligibility from MPs' electorate offices should be directed to the *Saluting Their Service* team at the Department of Veterans' Affairs (Phone: 1800 555 254), email commemorativegrants@dva.gov.au.