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Army Standing Instruction (Personnel), Part 11, Chapter 3

CHAPTER 3

ARMY COMBAT BADGE

INTRODUCTION

3.1. The Army Combat Badge (ACB) is issued to any member of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) for service with an Army combat element in warlike operations. This badge does not replace the Infantry Combat Badge (ICB).

PURPOSE

3.2. The purpose of the ACB is to recognise the unique service of a member operating with an Arms Corps unit within a warlike area of operations. The purpose of the ACB is not to recognise combat duties but to recognise service with a combat element through formal force assignment.

AIM

3.3. The aim of this chapter is to detail the policy and procedures applicable for the issue of the ACB.

DEFINITIONS

3.4. Part 1, Chapter 3 – *Army Standing Instructions (Personnel) Glossary of common terms* contains common terms and definitions used throughout this chapter. Annex A provides a list of definitions that apply to this chapter.

ELIGIBILITY

3.5. To be eligible to be issued the ACB, a member must have:

a. Either:

- (1) been force assigned to a combat team for a period of either a continuous or an aggregate of 90 days satisfactory service, **or**
- (2) been physically deployed in the same geographical location as a Combat Team and have a primary role to directly support that Combat Team for a period of either a continuous or an aggregate of 90 days satisfactory service;

b. and:

- (1) been serving on a warlike operations
- (2) not have been previously issued the ICB or ACB.

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Exceptional circumstances

3.6. The Approval Authority may approve the issue of the ACB to members on exchange/attachment duties for service with an allied unit, who meet the criteria detailed in paragraph 3.5.

3.7. The Approval Authority may approve the issue of the ACB where a member satisfies the requirement of paragraph 3.5.a. but fails to meet the aggregate 90 days satisfactory service due to being:

- a. killed in action (KIA)
- b. wounded in action
- c. evacuated from the theatre of operations because of a disability (not self-inflicted) attributable to that service, or
- d. where the duration of the conflict was less than 90 days, but in all other circumstances, the nature of the conflict would qualify for the ACB.

3.8. The Chief of Army may alter the eligibility criteria depending on the operation or deployment.

Designated areas of qualifying service

3.9. Any area of operation, recognised by the award of an AASM is recognised to meet the eligibility criteria for the ACB. A list of currently recognised areas of operations is in [DGPERs-A website](#).

AUTHORISATION AND APPROVAL TO WEAR THE BADGE

3.10. **Approval under normal circumstances for current operations.** The following responsibilities apply in granting authority to wear the badge where the criteria is clearly met.

3.11. **Recommending authority.** Where the issuing of the badge to an individual clearly lies within the eligibility requirements outlined in paragraph 3.5. the unit Commanding Officer (CO) of the deployed force recommends the issue of the ACB. COs of units supporting combat teams are to recommend all unit members who meet the eligibility criteria in paragraph 3.5. COs are to forward all recommendations to the Approval Authority.

3.12. **Approval Authority.** Where the criteria in paragraph 3.5 are clearly met, the Commander Australian Contingent (COMASC) of the deployed force may approve the issue of the ACB. In circumstances where COMASC is not an Army officer, DGPERs-A is the Approval Authority.

3.13. **Approval under exceptional circumstances.** The following responsibilities apply in granting authority to wear the badge where exceptional circumstances may apply.

3.14. **Recommending authority.** As follows:

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- a. For personnel with service on exchange/attachment with an allied unit who meet the criteria detailed in paragraph 3.5. the CO of the member's current unit is to make a recommendation and forward the application to the Approval Authority.
- b. For current serving members who are making a retrospective claim for the award of the ACB, the CO of the member's current unit is to make a recommendation and forward the application to the Approval Authority.
- c. Ex-serving members who believe they may be entitled to the award of the ACB are to submit their application to their Corps association (if a member) for forwarding to their respective Heads of Corps (HOC). If the member is submitting a claim for the ACB as an individual, they are to forward the application direct to their HOC. The HOC is to make a recommendation and forward the application to the Approval Authority.

3.15. **Approval Authority.** DGPERS–A is the Approval authority for all applications that meet the exceptional circumstances criteria, outlined in paragraphs 3.6. and 3.7.

3.16. All applications for individuals are to use form [AE665 – Request to be Issued the Army Combat Badge](#). Unit group applications are to be submitted on a schedule using the template provided at [Annex B](#) and signed by the unit CO. Corps Associations may submit group applications using annex 3C and submit directly to the Army Ceremonial Cell.

RETROSPECTIVITY

3.17. **Eligibility.** The issue of the ACB is retrospective to Malaya 1948. The ACB will only be issued retrospectively to applicants who were members of the Australian Army at the time of their eligible service. The badge will not be issued to deceased members unless the member was KIA or died of wounds. A non-exhaustive list of operations, combat elements and units which are recognised as meeting the ACB eligibility requirements is listed in [DGPERS–A website](#).

Application for service prior to 1989

3.18. Corps associations have been requested to provide the respective HOC with a list of eligible persons for endorsement using the format in annex C, noting the requirement for the list to contain members of all corps who served with the appropriate unit.

3.19. Respective HOC are to provide a recommendation and forward the list to the Approval Authority. After approval, DGPERS–A will dispatch the requisite number of badges to the Corps association. Corps associations are responsible for distributing the ACB to eligible members including postage and handling costs.

Application for retrospective service from 1989 onwards—ex-serving members

3.20. Ex-serving and all Reserve members who believe they fulfil the eligibility criteria listed in paragraph 3.5, may apply for the ACB using form AE 655. The

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application form must contain proof that the member served on an eligible operation for the required period by providing supporting documentation such as a certified true copy of the record of service (usually attached to the Certificate of Discharge) or a Statutory Declaration.

3.21. HOC are to send the completed applications for the ACB to the Army Ceremonial Cell for consideration by the Approval Authority.

3.22. Approved applicants will be sent their ACB entitlement to their nominated postal address.

Retrospective application for service from 1989 onwards—serving members

3.23. Serving Australian Regular Army and Reserve Force members who believe they are eligible to receive the ACB are to apply using form AE 665. The claim for the ACB must be validated by the unit using either PMKeyS, unit records, posting history or in the last resort, a Statutory Declaration and recommended by the CO of the member's current unit, before being forwarded to the Army Ceremonial Cell for consideration by the Approval Authority.

3.24. Once approved, members can draw their ACB entitlement from their supporting clothing store.

3.25. **Approval of retrospective claims.** The Approval Authority can approve all retrospective claims, with the exception of those applications by members who are seeking approval under exceptional circumstances.

ADMINISTRATION

Recording on PMKeyS

3.26. The Army Ceremonial Cell is responsible for updating PMKeyS for members approved for the ACB by an authorised Approval Authority.

Description

3.27. The badge, finished in burnished bronze, is in the form of two crossed swords surrounded by a laurel wreath. It is approximately 30 mm wide and fixed to the uniform by means of pins and clutch grips. A miniature of the badge is worn on mess dress.

Basis of issue

3.28. Each eligible serving member will be issued two full-size ACB. Officers and senior noncommissioned officers (SNCO) are also entitled to one miniature ACB at public expense. Ex-service members are entitled to one full-size ACB. Ex-serving officers and SNCO are also entitled to one miniature ACB at public expense. Replacement ACB are at individual expense. Units can indent for the number of ACB required through the Q system using NATO Stock Number 8455-66-154-1815. For

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future operations, the ACB should be issued to eligible members prior to their return to Australia.

Wearing of the badge

3.29. Current serving members of the Army are to wear the ACB in accordance with Annex B, Chapter 4 of the Army Dress Manual. RAN and RAAF members are to wear to the ACB in accordance with their single Service dress policy.

Forfeiture and restoration

3.30. Should any member forfeit campaign stars or medals, then the ACB shall also be forfeited. Upon restoration of forfeited campaign stars or medals, the forfeited ACB shall also be restored.

Infantry Combat Badge

3.31. The ACB does not replace the ICB. [ASI\(P\) Part 11, Chapter 4 —Infantry Combat Badge](#) remains extant.

Sponsor: DGPERS–A (Army Ceremonial Cell)

Annexes

- 3A Definitions
- 3B Unit consolidated list of Army Combat Badge recipients
- 3C Application through a Corps Association to be issued the Army Combat Badge—ex–serving members

DEFINITIONS

1. For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions apply:
 - a. **Combat Team.** for the purpose of this chapter is a section to battalion sized tactical grouping of combat arms, combat support and combat service support elements based on an infantry, armour, artillery, aviation or combat engineer headquarters (HQ).
 - b. **Support.** is defined for the purpose of this chapter as providing support to a Combat Team through the delivery of services or effects that adds to the combat effectiveness of the Combat Team.
 - c. **Force Assigned.** for the purpose of this chapter includes being, posted to, attached by operational order or formally Force Assigned for operations.
 - d. The term **Member** in this chapter means any full-time member of the ADF or part-time member of the ADF, who was on continuous full-time service at the time of deployment.
 - e. **Satisfactory service.** All service will be considered satisfactory unless deemed otherwise by the recommending officer. Unsatisfactory service is to be determined on a case-by-case basis by the recommending officer. All incidents of unsatisfactory service must be documented.
 - f. **Warlike operations.** are defined as service in an operational area that has been declared warlike for the purposes of the award of the Australian Active Service Medal (AASM). The ACB will not be granted for deployments where the Australian Service Medal is awarded.

APPLICATION THROUGH A CORPS ASSOCIATION TO BE ISSUED THE ARMY COMBAT BADGE—EX—SERVING MEMBERS

Table with 7 columns: Service Number, Initials, Name, Deployed Unit, Operation or Deployment, Dates of Deployment, Record of service provided. The last column contains 'Yes/No' entries.

Submitted by Association

Contact name and address

Telephone number

Head of Corps Signature Block

Endorsed/Not Endorsed

Date:

DGPERS—A Signature Block

Approved/Not Approved

Date:

(quantity) Badges dispatched by

Date