



DEFENCE INSTRUCTIONS (ARMY)

Department of Defence (Army Headquarters)
CANBERRA ACT 2600

24 August 2009

Amendments to the Defence Instruction (Army) listed below is issued by my command pursuant to section 9A of the *Defence Act 1903*.

K.J. GILLESPIE
Lieutenant General
Chief of Army

ISSUE NO PERS 5/2009

Amendment

PERS 119-1 *Army Combat Badge*
AMDT NO 3
Complete Revision

Cancellation

DI(A) PERS 119-1 ISSUE NO PERS 6/2008 of 3 JUL 2008 (AL2) is cancelled.

Note: Instructions for filing and maintaining DI(A) are contained in DI(G) ADMIN 01-1 (filed as DI(A) ADMIN 1-3).

ARMY COMBAT BADGE

INTRODUCTION

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

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

DEFINITIONS

4. **Approval Authority** unless otherwise stated is the Director-General Personnel—Army (DGPERS-A).

5. **Combat Team** for the purpose of this Instruction 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).

6. **Support** is defined for the purpose of this Instruction as providing support to a Combat Team through the delivery of services or effects that adds to the combat effectiveness of the Combat Team.

7. **Force Assigned** for the purpose of this Instruction includes being, posted to, attached by operational order or formally Force Assigned for operations.

8. The term **Member** in this Instruction 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.

9. **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.

10. **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.

ELIGIBILITY

11. 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;
- (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; and
 - (2) not have been previously issued the ICB or ACB.

Exceptional circumstances

12. 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 11](#).

13. The Approval Authority may approve the issue of the ACB where a member satisfies the requirement of [paragraph 11.a](#). but fails to meet the requirement in [paragraph 11.b.\(1\)](#). 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.

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

Designated areas of qualifying service

15. 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

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

17. **Recommending authority.** Where the issuing of the badge to an individual clearly lies within the eligibility requirements outlined in [paragraph 11](#). 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 11](#). COs are to forward all recommendations to the Approval Authority.

18. **Approval Authority.** Where the criteria in [paragraph 11](#). 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.

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

20. **Recommending authority.** As follows:

- a. For personnel with service on exchange/attachment with an allied unit who meet the criteria detailed in [paragraph 11](#)., 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.

21. **Approval Authority.** DGPERS–A is the Approval authority for all applications that meet the exceptional circumstances criteria, outlined in [paragraphs 12.](#) and [13.](#)

22. The application form to be used for the issue of the ACB for personnel on current operations is in [annex A.](#) The application form to be used for the issue of the ACB for personnel with service on exchange/attachment with an allied unit is in [annex B.](#) The application form to be used by current serving members who are making a retrospective claim for the award is in [annex C.](#) The application form to be used by ex-serving members is in [annex D.](#)

RETROSPECTIVITY

23. **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

24. Corps associations have been requested to provide the respective HOC with a list of eligible persons for endorsement using the format in [annex E,](#) noting the requirement for the list to contain members of all corps who served with the appropriate unit.

25. 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

26. Ex-serving and all Standby Reserve members who believe they fulfil the eligibility criteria listed in [paragraph 11.,](#) may apply for the ACB using the application form in [annex D.](#) The application form is to be sent to the member's HOC for a recommendation prior to the application being sent to the Approval Authority. Applications which do not contain a recommendation from the HOC will not be processed. The 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.

27. HOC are to send the completed applications for the ACB to the Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) Ceremonial—Army for consideration by the Approval Authority.

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

Retrospective application for service from 1989 onwards—serving members

29. Serving Australian Regular Army and Active Reserve members who believe they are eligible to receive the ACB are to apply using the application form in [annex C.](#) 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 Approval Authority.

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

31. **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

32. DGPERS–A is responsible for recording member's details on PMKeyS. Unit HQ are responsible to create a consolidated list of ACB recipients and forward the list to RSM Ceremonial—Army (R8–09–041, Department of Defence, CANBERRA, ACT 2600), for entry into PMKeyS as per [annex F](#).

Description

33. 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

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

Wearing of the badge

35. The ACB is to be worn by eligible serving members of the Australian Army whilst in uniform. The Badge may be worn by eligible ex-service members, who subsequently join other uniformed organisations whose dress regulations permit the wearing, in uniform, of military awards. Eligible retired members may also wear the ACB, with the appropriate uniform, when attending military functions. On those occasions where medals may be worn on civilian clothes, the ACB may also be worn. Members of Services other than Army are to apply to their Service Chief for permission to wear the ACB once issued.

36. The badge is worn on the left breast, centrally placed one centimetre immediately above the medal ribbons or medals, with all orders of dress. On mess dress and mess dress white jacket a miniature of the badge is to be worn in the same location. For members entitled to wear another award badge, ie Badges Flying/Parachute Instructor, on the left breast, the ACB is to be worn one centimetre above the Badges Flying/Parachute Instructor. Only the ACB or the ICB may be worn, not both.

Forfeiture and restoration

37. 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

38. The ACB does not replace the ICB. The ICB Instruction [Defence Instruction \(Army\) PERS 97–5—Infantry Combat Badge](#) remains extant.

Sponsor: DGPERS–A

Annexes:

- A. [Application for current serving members to be issued the Army Combat Badge](#)
- B. [Application to be issued the Army Combat Badge for service on exchange/attachment with an allied unit](#)
- C. [Application to be retrospectively issued the Army Combat Badge current serving members](#)
- D. [Application to be issued the Army Combat Badge—ex-serving members](#)
- E. [Application through a Corps Association to be issued the Army Combat Badge—ex-serving members](#)
- F. [Unit consolidated list of Army Combat Badge recipients](#)

**APPLICATION TO BE ISSUED THE ARMY COMBAT BADGE FOR
SERVICE ON EXCHANGE/ATTACHMENT WITH AN ALLIED UNIT**

PMKeyS Number:

Army Number:

Last Name:

Given Names:

Rank:

Operation Name or Acronym:

Dates deployed: From to

Combat Element/Unit served with:

Justification for permission to be issued the Army Combat Badge (ACB):

Based on the stated service and the justification given, I propose that the above member be eligible to wear the ACB under the provisions of Defence Instruction (Army) PERS 119-1—*Army Combat Badge*.

RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED

CO Signature
CO Signature Block

Date:

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

DGPERS-A Signature
DGPERS-A Signature Block

Date:

**APPLICATION TO BE RETROSPECTIVELY ISSUED THE ARMY
COMBAT BADGE CURRENT SERVING MEMBERS**

PMKeyS Number:

Army Number:

Last Name:

Given Names:

Rank:

Operation Name or Acronym:

Dates deployed: From to

Combat Element/Unit served with:

Justification for permission to be issued the Army Combat Badge (ACB):

Based on the stated service and the justification given, I propose that the above member be eligible to wear the ACB under the exceptional circumstance provision of Defence Instruction (Army) PERS 119-1—*Army Combat Badge*.

CO Signature
CO Signature Block

Date:

DGPERS-A Signature
DGPERS-A Signature Block

Date:

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

APPLICATION TO BE ISSUED THE ARMY COMBAT BADGE—EX-SERVING MEMBERS

Identifying You

PMKeyS Number:

Army Number:

Last Name:

Given Names:

Rank on Discharge:

Identifying the Operation

Operation Name or Acronym:

Unit deployed with/or attached from:

Dates deployed: From to

Is a certified copy of you record of service attached? (circle one) **Yes** **No**

If No, is a Statutory Declaration attached? **Yes** **No**

Where do we send the ACB?

Address line 1 or PO Box:

Address line 2:

Suburb:

Post Code:

State:

Contact Details

Telephone:

Mobile Telephone:

Email address:

I, (insert full name), declare that I have read the Defence Instruction (Army) PERS 119-1—*Army Combat Badge* and that I fulfil all of the eligibility requirements and declare that the above information is true and correct.

Your Signature

(Printed Name)

Date:

----- Official Use Only

Approved/Not Approved

Quantity Dispatched

Large Small

DGPERS-A

Signature

Date:

Date:

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

Service Number	Initials	Name	Deployed Unit	Operation or Deployment	Dates of Deployment	Record of service provided
						Yes/No
						Yes/No
						Yes/No
						Yes/No
						Yes/No
						Yes/No

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

