

INFORMATION ABOUT THE NZ DEFENCE SERVICE MEDAL

(As at 30 May 2011)

What is the New Zealand Defence Service Medal (NZDSM)?

The New Zealand Defence Service Medal was instituted in April 2011 to recognise attested military service since 3 September 1945. The medal is tangible medallic recognition for those who have served in the Regular and/or Territorial military forces for three years or more since the end of the Second World War, including those who did Compulsory Military Training (CMT) or Balloted National Service. Eligibility criteria is explained fully on the New Zealand Defence Force medals website

<http://medals.nzdf.mil.nz/nzdsm/faqs.html>

The NZDSM recognises the unique requirements of military service, including: commitment to service of the Crown (represented by an oath/affirmation of allegiance), liability for operational service, being subject to military discipline and lifestyle, and constraints imposed on employment conditions and personal freedoms.

Frequently asked questions

Some FAQs are answered below. For a full list of FAQs please go to

<http://medals.nzdf.mil.nz/nzdsm/faqs.html>

How can I apply for the medal?

It is recommended that people apply online if possible as this is the fastest way to process the applications. The

online form can be found at
<http://medals.nzdf.mil.nz>

Hard copy (paper) application forms are available from the same website or from local RSAs.

If you have any questions about filling in the form please call the NZDF Service Centre on 0800 334 772.

Can I apply immediately?

Around 160,000 personnel qualify for the NZDSM so this is the largest medal issue project since the Second World War medals were issued in the early 1950s. With such high numbers a priority programme is necessary and the Minister of Defence has directed that the priority will be:

1. Those living ex-Service personnel over the age of 70
2. Those living ex-Service personnel over the age of 60
3. Then all other living ex-Service personnel.

Please note: Currently applications are being taken for ex Service personnel over 70 years old. Applications from those in other age groups and from the next-of-kin of deceased ex-Service persons will be called for progressively over the next year or so.

Can I get one early if my family member is terminally ill?

Ex-Service personnel who are genuinely terminally ill and are eligible

for the medal will be given priority over all other applicants but the family still need to submit an application form either online or hard copy.

How long is it going to take for me to receive my medal?

The Defence Force is expecting more than 100,000 applications for the medal in the first three years of the project to issue the medal. This means that applications will need to be prioritised. All applications will be processed as fast as possible and medals will be courier delivered to the recipient's home address in a presentation case. Each case includes an engraved full size medal and a miniature medal mounted ready for wear.

I want to apply for my late relative's medal - how can I do this?

Families of deceased ex-Service personnel will be invited to apply for their late relative's (husband/father/mother etc) medal entitlement after the processing of the initial applications from older living ex-Service personnel is well underway. This is likely to occur in early 2012.

Medal engraving

As per NZ Defence Force policy all NZDSM medals will be engraved with the rank of the recipient at the time they are entitled to receive it - this has been custom and practice since the Crimea War and is universally used

by all Commonwealth countries. No blank medals will be issued as per instructions in the Royal Warrant.

Medal mounting

The medals have a clip mount in swing style for the full size and miniature medal which is deliberately designed for the very large number (around 60,000) for whom this will be their only medal. This will allow those recipients to 'put the medal up' without any mounting cost.

Ex-Service personnel with other medals who wish to add this medal to their

medal set will need to arrange for their medals to be remounted at their own cost.

Medal ceremonies

Regional medal presentations are being arranged around the country by local RSA branches, Community and Regimental Associations, whanau on local marae and family gatherings. MPs are encouraged to support these events where possible. The issue of who actually presents these medals is less important than the community and family recognition of the recipients' loyal

attested service to New Zealand.

MPs from all sides of the House are encouraged to present these medals if requested or to support any other local dignitaries. Note that this medal does not have to be presented by a uniformed member of the NZ Defence Force. Mayors and RSA presidents may be expected to be asked for their support as presenters on a local level.



ABOUT THE NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE SERVICE MEDAL

The obverse (FRONT) of the medal has the New Zealand Coat of Arms, the symbol of the Crown and Executive Arm of Government. The reverse (REAR) side has the fern, plus the emblems of the Navy, Army and Air Force - the Naval crown, crossed swords and eagle. These are the main elements of the Badge of the New Zealand Defence Force. The two fern fronds which normally form part of the Badge of the New Zealand Defence Force have been omitted to avoid the inference that all recipients served in the NZ Defence

Force. Many of the recipients will have served in the armed forces prior to the formation of the NZ Defence Force.

The medal ribbon reflects the colours of the Navy, Army and Air Force as dark blue, red and light blue respectively. Light green stripes have been added to represent the volunteer Territorial and Reserve elements of the Services.

The Royal Warrant for the NZDSM allows for one or more clasps to be awarded with the medal. The number of clasps awarded to an individual will

be determined by the type(s) of military service undertaken. There are four clasps which can be awarded with the NZDSM: REGULAR, TERRITORIAL, C.M.T., and NATIONAL SERVICE.