Canadian HONOURS AND AWARDS

BESTOWED UPON MEMBERS OF THE CANADIAN FORCES
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II, QUEEN OF CANADA,
WEARING HER INSIGNIA OF SOVEREIGN OF THE ORDER OF CANADA
AND OF THE ORDER OF MILITARY MERIT
Canadian HONOURS AND AWARDS

BESTOWED UPON MEMBERS OF THE CANADIAN FORCES
The purpose of this guide is to provide a brief outline of the conditions of eligibility as well as images of the Canadian honours and awards that are available to members of Her Majesty’s Canadian Forces (CF). The intent is that this booklet will be used as an aide-mémoire for commanders at all levels to help them make recommendations for appropriate honours and awards in a timely manner for the personnel under their authority. The content is limited to Canadian military awards. Other awards, mainly those awarded to civilians as well as those emanating from the United Nations, NATO and other international missions have not been included in the scope of this publication. The information provided should only be viewed as general guidelines. For more detailed information and exact criteria, the reader should consult the various references listed at the end of this booklet. The honours and awards are presented in logical groupings; the correct order of wear being printed at the end of this publication.

Since very ancient times, it has been customary to recognize military valour, bravery or meritorious service by the award of trophies, badges, insignia or medals. Throughout the last three centuries, Canadians have been presented with awards from the French Regime and the British Empire, indigenous Canadian honours being a relatively recent innovation. Gradually, Canada began to create its own awards and the turning point was the creation of the Order of Canada in 1967. The system started to expand in 1972 to become the wide-ranging system we now know.

The modern Canadian honours system recognizes outstanding achievements, gallantry in combat, bravery and service to Crown and country. In Canada, all honours emanate from Her Majesty The Queen and are divided into three main categories:

**Orders** are societies of merit, which recognize outstanding achievement and exceptional service over a long period of time, a career or a life. Orders usually have different levels or grades of membership and the distinction is made with differences in the insignia associated to the various levels or in the way they are worn. An order being a society of merit, one is not awarded an order but admitted into it and, where subsequent service justifies it, one may be promoted within the order. As it is a membership, a person can resign from an order or be expelled if that person failed to respect the principle of honour.

**Decorations** recognize one act of gallantry in combat, bravery in the face of danger, or meritorious service in a single event or over a specific period of time. A decoration is only awarded once to an individual; if further actions meet the criteria for the same decoration, a bar is awarded to be worn on the initial decoration in order to denote a second award.

**Medals** recognize participation in a campaign or operation, service under exceptional circumstances, commemorate royal or national anniversaries or recognize long and loyal service. Bars may also be awarded to campaign or service medals to specify the service being recognized or to signify multiple rotations served and on long service awards to denote additional periods of eligible service.

The Sovereign is the fount of all honours and the Governor General, with advice from the Privy Council, acts on her behalf in Canada. National honours are administered by the Chancellery of Honours on behalf of the Government of Canada and the Directorate of Honours and Recognition manages the honours programs for members of the CF on behalf of the Chancellery of Honours. It should be noted that there is a five-year limit following an action to submit a nomination for most individual awards (Meritorious Service Decorations, Mentions in Dispatches, Commendations) but the limit is two years for Military Valour Decorations and Decorations for Bravery. Similarly, the creation of a medal to recognize an operation will not be considered if the proposal is made more than five years after the end of the operation.

In Canada, the appointment to orders and the awarding of decorations and medals do not confer any special privileges such as titles, political influence or monetary benefits. Honours only give the recipient the right to wear the appropriate insignia and, in the case of orders and decorations only, the right to use the associated post-nominal letters and display the insignia in the individual’s personal coat of arms.
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The Order of Military Merit was established in 1972 to provide a means of recognizing conspicuous merit and exceptional service by members of the CF both Regular and Reserve. Her Majesty The Queen is the Sovereign of the Order, the Governor General is the Chancellor and the Chief of the Defence Staff is the Principal Commander. The motto of the Order is OFFICIO ANTE COMMODUM which means “Service before self”. There are three levels of membership in the Order of Military Merit: Member, Officer and Commander, the latter being the highest. The number of appointments made annually is the equivalent of 0.1% of the total strength of the CF in the preceding year. Of that number, 5% will be Commanders, 20% will be Officers and 75% will be Members. Nominations coming from the chain of command are considered once a year by the Advisory Council of the Order of Military Merit, Chaired by the Chief of the Defence Staff who in turn passes the recommendations to the Governor General for final approval on behalf of The Queen. The investitures take place at Rideau Hall twice yearly where the Governor General presents the members with the insignia of their membership in the Order. Members of foreign armed forces may be appointed honorary members of the Order.

Major Steven Card, OMM, CD, receives his insignia of Officer of the Order of Military Merit from His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, CC, CMM, COM, CD, at Rideau Hall, Ottawa, on 9 December 2010.

Photo: MCpl Dany Veillette
OFFICERS OF THE ORDER OF MILITARY MERIT

SOVEREIGN

CHANCELLOR

PRINCIPAL COMMANDER
OFFICERS OF THE ORDER OF MILITARY MERIT

FOUNDING SOVEREIGN OF THE ORDER OF MILITARY MERIT
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II, QUEEN OF CANADA

Chancellors

The Right Honourable Daniel Roland Michener, PC, CC, CMM, CD, QC, 1972-1974
The Right Honourable Jules Léger, PC, CC, CMM, CD, 1974-1980
The Right Honourable Jeanne Mathilde Sauvé, PC, CC, CMM, CD, 1985-1990
The Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, PC, CC, CMM, CD, QC, 1990-1995
The Right Honourable Roméo Adrien LeBlanc, PC, CC, CMM, ONB, CD, 1995-1999
The Right Honourable Adrienne Louise Clarkson, PC, CC, CMM, COM, CD, 1999-2005
The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, CC, CMM, COM, CD, 2005-2010
The Right Honourable David Lloyd Johnston, CC, CMM, COM, CD, 2010-

Principal Commanders

General F.R. Sharp, CMM, DFC, CD, 1972
General J.A. Dextraze, CC, CMM, CBE, DSO, CD, 1972-1977
General G.C.E. Thériault, CMM, CD, 1983-1986
General P.D. Manson, CMM, CD, 1986-1989
General J.E.J. Boyle, CMM, CD, 1995
Vice-Admiral L.E. Murray, CMM, CD (acting), 1996-1997
General J.G.M. Baril, CMM, MSM, CD, 1997-2001
General R.R.J. Henault, CMM, CSM, CD, 2001-2005
General R.J. Hillier, CMM, MSC, CD, 2005-2008
General W.J. Natynczyk, CMM, MSC, CD, 2008-

His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada, wearing his chain of office as the Chancellor of the Order of Military Merit.
Photo: Sgt Serge Gouin, Rideau Hall

General Natynczyk, Chief of the Defence Staff, wearing his chain of office as the Principal Commander of the Order of Military Merit.
Photo: MCpl Jean-François Néron

The Seal of the Order of Military Merit
Officers of the Order are appointed for outstanding meritorious service while fulfilling duties of responsibility. This has been interpreted to mean that generally, only officers in the ranks of Major or Lieutenant-Commander to Colonel or Captain(N) are eligible to be appointed as Officers.

Commanders of the Order are appointed for outstanding meritorious service while fulfilling duties of great responsibility. This has been interpreted to mean that only flag and general officers are eligible to be appointed as Commanders.

Members of the Order are appointed for exceptional service or performance of duty. This has been interpreted to mean that generally, Non-Commissioned Members (NCMs), Warrant Officers, Petty Officers, and Commissioned Officers up to the rank of Captain or Lieutenant(N) are eligible to be appointed as Members.
The Order of St. John of Jerusalem was established after the First Crusade to maintain a hospital in Jerusalem to care for the sick and wounded crusaders. A Grand Priory of the Order was established in London (UK) in 1831 and was granted a Royal Charter by Queen Victoria in 1888. Since then, the Monarch is the Sovereign Head and Patron of the Order. The Order is part of the Canadian honours system and the Governor General is the Prior of the Priory of Canada. Canadians who have performed good services for the Order, mainly through its two foundations; the St. John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem and the St. John Ambulance, may be admitted to the Order. There are five levels to the Order and usually, one is admitted at the lowest grade and is later promoted through the grades when further accomplishments justify it. The grades are Bailiff or Dame Grand Cross, Knight or Dame of Justice or of Grace, Commander, Officer and Serving Member. Military nominations should be submitted by the member’s commanding officer to the Directorate of Honours and Recognition prior to 1 February each year. Defence nominations are reviewed once a year by a Department of National Defence Committee and those that are supported are then forwarded to the St. John National Honours and Awards Committee for consideration.

- Appointments as **Bailiff or Dame Grand Cross** are made at Her Majesty’s pleasure.
- Are appointed **Knights or Dames** of the Order those who have successfully demonstrated leadership at a national or regional level, in a position carrying major responsibility; or have demonstrated exceptional leadership and performed meritorious service at a local level.
- Are appointed **Commanders** of the Order those who have successfully demonstrated leadership at a regional level, in a position carrying substantial responsibility or have demonstrated exceptional leadership and performed meritorious service at a local level.
- Are appointed **Officers** of the Order those who have successfully demonstrated leadership at a regional level in a position carrying substantial responsibility or at a local level carrying major responsibility.
- Are appointed **Serving Members** of the Order those who have performed good and devoted service to the Order, through sustained voluntary commitment of time, skills and/or resources to St. John.

Other St. John honours and awards
- The **Service Medal** of the Order is awarded for 12 years of volunteer service for the Order at a minimum rate of 60 recorded volunteer hours a year. Bars are awarded for additional periods of 5 years of eligible service.
- The **Priory Vote of Thanks** is a certificate signed by the Governor General as Prior to recognize good services to the Order which do not meet the criteria for admission to the Order.
- The **Chancellor’s Commendation** recognizes a particularly meritorious contribution to the Order on the national scene, an exemplary deed or activity in the pursuit of the objectives of St. John that is worth of national recognition.
- The **Provincial/Territorial Commendation** recognizes a particularly meritorious contribution to the Order on the provincial scene, an exemplary deed or activity in the pursuit of the objectives of St. John that is worth of provincial or regional recognition.
INSIGNIA OF THE MOST VENERABLE ORDER OF THE HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM

COMMANDER

OFFICER

SERVING MEMBER

SERVICE MEDAL

CHANCELLOR’S COMMENDATION

PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL COMMENDATION
The three Military Valour Decorations (MVDs), namely the Victoria Cross, the Star of Military Valour and the Medal of Military Valour, were created on 1 January 1993 to recognize acts of valour, self sacrifice or devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy. They can be awarded in situations short of war if the troops are in “combat” with an organized, armed “enemy” that is recognized as such by the Canadian people. It must be understood however that “combat” is not merely the presence of fire. Rather, the fire has to be directed at our troops, with the intent of our troops being the destruction of the opposing force as a valid entity. The word “enemy” in this context means a hostile armed force, and includes armed terrorists, armed mutineers, armed rebels, armed rioters and armed pirates.

It should be noted that conflicting parties in a peacekeeping context are not considered enemies and although there may be altercations with the CF in a peacekeeping mission, the use of force by the CF will generally be limited to self-defence. This is why MVDs are not generally awarded during peacekeeping operations.

Nominations are processed through the chain of command from the theatre of operations and cannot exceed one nomination for every 250 persons under command in an active theatre of operations for a six-month period. This rule ensures the respect and value of these decorations is preserved but often imposes difficult choices to the leaders; only the bravest of the brave, those who willingly and knowingly sacrifice themselves for others, or set an extreme example of devotion to duty will be recognized. Nominations, which must include two witness statements, shall be submitted within two years of the date of the incident.
THE MILITARY VALOUR DECORATIONS

The **Medal of Military Valour** shall be awarded for an act of valour or devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy.

The **Victoria Cross** shall be awarded for the most conspicuous bravery, a daring or preeminent act of valour or self-sacrifice or extreme devotion to duty, in the presence of the enemy.

The **Star of Military Valour** shall be awarded for distinguished and valiant service in the presence of the enemy.

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**STAR OF MILITARY VALOUR**

**SMV**

**MEDAL OF MILITARY VALOUR**

**MMV**

**VICTORIA CROSS**

**VC**
The Decorations for Bravery were created in 1972 to recognize people who have risked their lives to save or protect others. The three levels – the Cross of Valour, the Star of Courage and the Medal of Bravery – reflect the varying degrees of risk involved in any act of bravery. These decorations are awarded to civilians as well as to members of the CF. The Governor General personally presents the decorations in ceremonies held at Rideau Hall, Ottawa or La Citadelle, Quebec City. Nominations must be made within two years of the incident.

The following members of the CF have been awarded the Cross of Valour:
Sergeant Amédéo Garrammone, CV, CD 1980
Warrant Officer Keith Paul Mitchell, CV, CD 1998
Chief Warrant Officer Vaino Olavi Partanen, CV, CD (Posthumous) 1972
Warrant Officer Bryan Keith Pierce, CV, MSC, CD 1998
Sergeant Lewis John Stringer, CV, CD (Posthumous) 1972

During a Canadian Coast Guard exercise, a Search and Rescue technician from 413 Squadron, 14 Wing Greenwood Nova Scotia, gets lowered by the hoist of a Cormorant helicopter onto a fishing boat in Cascumpec Bay in Alberton, Prince Edward Island.

Photo: Sgt Pete Nicholson
The Star of Courage is awarded for acts of conspicuous courage in circumstances of great peril.

The Cross of Valour is awarded for acts of the most conspicuous courage in circumstances of extreme peril. At the time of printing, only 20 people had received this decoration.

The Medal of Bravery is awarded for acts of bravery in hazardous circumstances.
Meritorious Service Decorations honour either a single achievement or an activity over a specified period, while the Order of Military Merit focuses on long-term achievement. Meritorious Service Decorations are separated into military and civilian divisions, with two levels in each category: a Cross and a Medal. The military division recognizes individuals for outstanding professionalism and for bringing honour to the CF. Foreign nationals can be recognized in either division. The military Cross was created in 1984. The military Medal and the civilian Cross and Medal were created in 1991.

There is no annual limit or allocation for these decorations which are intended to be the workhorse of the merit recognition system and recognize one specific act or meritorious service performed over a specific period of time, be it a few minutes, days, a project, an operational rotation or a whole posting. The awards are not reserved for operational or overseas service and the level of award (Cross or Medal) is not linked to the rank or level of responsibility of the nominee, the degree of merit being the only factor. The criteria for each decoration are simple and flexible allowing the recognition of a wide array of achievements by military personnel at all levels and in all fields. Nominations, which must me submitted through the chain of command within five years of the date of the incident or the end of the service cited, should especially be made for individuals who demonstrate either:

- outstanding performance out of trade, rank and experience;
- outstanding performance in trade, rank and experience but performed under exceptional or difficult conditions; or
- performance which has an international flavour or effect.

HMCS St. John’s small boat inspection team and boarding party verify the passports and papers of two “go fast” aluminum boats suspected of carrying terrorists. HMCS St. John’s was operating in and around the Gulf of Oman as part of Operation APOLLO, Canada’s military contribution to the international campaign against terrorism.

Photo: MCpl Michel Durand
The Meritorious Service Cross (military division) recognizes a military deed or activity that has been performed in an outstandingly professional manner, according to a rare high standard that brings considerable benefit or great honour to the CF.

The Meritorious Service Medal (military division) recognizes a military deed or activity that has been performed in a highly professional manner or of a very high standard that brings benefit or honour to the CF.
The Chief of the Defence Staff, General Natynczyk, presents the General Campaign Star to Lieutenant(N) Blair Brown in recognition of service with Task Force SAIPH, a mission to combat piracy and terrorism in the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Aden. The ceremony took place on the flight deck of HMCS Fredericton on 2 May 2010.

Photo: Cpl Peter Reed, FIS Halifax
Campaign and Service Medals have been awarded in their modern form since the middle of the 19th century and recognize participation in a particular campaign or operation. A campaign medal like the Gulf and Kuwait Medal or the General Campaign Star, is awarded only to those who serve inside a specified theatre of operation, while service medals, like the South-West Asia Service Medal, the General Service Medal or the Operational Service Medal, may also be awarded to those who serve in direct support of the operation from outside the theatre provided there is a certain element of risk, threat, hardship or operational intensity. Canadian campaign and service medals are only awarded for honourable service. Accordingly, a commanding officer may recommend that a member not be awarded the medal if it is deemed that the person has not served honourably. Rotation bars have been created for certain recent medals in order to recognize long periods of service in a theatre. They are awarded for each period of 180 days following qualification for the original medal. CF members, depending on the mission, may also receive United Nations, NATO and other international mission medals but these are not discussed in this publication. Canadian Honours Policy precludes dual recognition; this means that a specific service may only be recognized by the award of one medal, ribbon or bar. The Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal has a special status in that it is not a medal that recognizes service with a specific mission or in a defined theatre but rather recognizes the recipient as a peacekeeper and it may therefore be awarded, depending on the situation, in addition to another campaign or service medal.
THE SACRIFICE MEDAL
The Sacrifice Medal may be awarded to members of the Canadian Forces, members of an allied force working as an integral part of the Canadian Forces such as exchange personnel, civilian employees of the Government of Canada or Canadian citizens under contract with the Government of Canada, on the condition that they were deployed as part of a military mission under the authority of the Canadian Forces, that have, on or after 7 October 2001, died or been wounded under honourable circumstances as a direct result of hostile action on the condition that the wounds that were sustained required treatment by a physician and the treatment has been documented.

The Medal may also be awarded posthumously to any member of the Canadian Forces who served on or after 7 October 2001 in the Regular Force, Primary Reserve, Cadet Organizations Administration and Training Service or Canadian Rangers, or any member of the Supplementary Reserve who served in or with one of the components aforementioned on or after 7 October 2001, and dies under honourable circumstances as a result of an injury or disease related to military service. A bar is awarded for further occasions which would have warranted award of the Medal.
THE GULF AND KUWAIT MEDAL

The Gulf and Kuwait Medal recognizes the persons deployed to or in direct support of the operations against Iraq during the Gulf war. The medal is awarded to persons who served a minimum of 30 cumulative days in theatre between 2 August 1990 and 27 June 1991, on operations to defend against aggression and to liberate Kuwait.

Those who served for at least one day, in the theatre of operations, during the hostilities (16 January 1991 to 3 March 1991) are eligible for the Medal and bar. A silver maple leaf is worn on the undress ribbon to denote the award of the bar.

The theatre of operations was the special duty area of the Persian Gulf including Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Iraq, as well as those other states on the immediate borders of Iraq.

A member of the Canadian Forces prepares a CF-18 for a combat mission as part of Operation FRICTION which was the Canadian contribution to the American-led Operation DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM.

Photo: National Defence Image Library (ISC91-5282)
THE SOMALIA MEDAL
THE SOMALIA MEDAL

The **Somalia medal** recognizes the participation of CF members that have taken part in the coalition mission in Somalia to help stabilize the country from civil war, and to help deliver humanitarian aid.

The Medal is awarded for a minimum of 90 cumulative days of honourable service in the theatre of operations between 16 November 1992 and 30 June 1993, provided that this service has not been recognized by another medal.

The theatre of operations consisted of the Somali Democratic Republic, its offshore waters extending to 200 nautical miles and the Republic of Kenya.

Refugees, many of them children, are greeted by a Canadian soldier participating in Op DELIVERANCE, in Somalia (1992-1993).

Photo: National Defence Image Library
THE SOUTH-WEST ASIA SERVICE MEDAL
The **South-West Asia Service Medal** recognizes participation while deployed to or in direct support of the operations against terrorism in South-West Asia. The medal with **AFGHANISTAN bar** is awarded for 30 days cumulative service between 11 September 2001 and 31 July 2009 in the theatre of operations, which is a subset of the United States Central Command Area of Operation Responsibility (USCENTCOM AOR). The theatre of operations is defined as the land, sea, or air spaces of Afghanistan, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, the Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Red Sea, Suez Canal and those parts of the Indian Ocean north of 5° South Latitude and west of 68° East Longitude. Recipients of the medal with AFGHANISTAN bar may receive a rotation bar for every subsequent period of 180 days of eligible service following eligibility for the medal. The award of the AFGHANISTAN bar is denoted by the wear of a small silver shield device on the undress ribbon while the award of rotation bars is denoted by maple leaf devices.

The medal (without bar) is awarded for a minimum of 90 days cumulative service in direct support of operations against terrorism in South-West Asia from 11 September 2001 (end dates vary depending on location) in the Headquarters in Tampa Bay, Florida, with the Strategic Airlift Detachment, Ramstein, Germany, with the Strategic Lines of Communications Detachments in the US or Europe, or with the Military Police Security Implementation Teams deployed to provide security to HMCS in various ports of Europe and North Africa.

Service under or in direct support of NATO’s International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) is not eligible for this medal but for the South-West Asia ribbon to either the General Campaign Star or General Service Medal.
THE GENERAL CAMPAIGN STAR
The General Campaign Star is awarded to members of the CF who deploy into a defined theatre of operations to take part in operations in the presence of an armed enemy. The Star is always issued with a ribbon specific to the theatre or task in question, and each ribbon has its own criteria.

- **ALLIED FORCE**: Awarded to fighter pilots and AWACS crew members who flew at least five sorties during Operation ALLIED FORCE from 24 March to 10 June 1999 in the theatre of operations which consisted of the airspace over Kosovo and other territories of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Adriatic and Ionian seas.

- **SOUTH-WEST ASIA**: Awarded to military personnel who served:
  - with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan for at least 30 days cumulative between 24 April 2003 and 31 July 2009, in the theatre of operations which consisted of the political boundaries and airspace of Afghanistan; and/or
  - in the theatre of operations consisting of the political boundaries of Afghanistan, the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea, the Suez Canal and those parts of the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea that are west of sixty-eight degrees East longitude and north of five degrees South latitude, as well as the airspace above those areas for at least 30 cumulative days since 1 August 2009 provided that the service has not been recognized by another service medal.

- **EXPEDITION**: Awarded to military personnel who served in approved locations outside Canada and inside a specific theatre of operations in the presence of an armed enemy for at least 30 cumulative days since 1 January 2003 provided that the service has not been recognized by another service medal. This includes military service within the political boundaries and airspace of Iraq from 20 January 2003 onwards provided the service has not been recognized by another service medal such as a UN or British medal.

Recipients of the Star may receive a rotation bar for every subsequent period of 180 days of eligible service following eligibility for the Star.
THE GENERAL SERVICE MEDAL
The General Service Medal is awarded to CF members who deploy outside of Canada – but not necessarily into a theatre of operations – to provide direct support, on a full-time basis, to operations in the presence of an armed enemy. The Medal may also be awarded to Canadian civilians, who are deployed outside Canada, either inside or outside a theatre of operations and working under to control and authority of the CF to provide direct support, on a full-time basis, to operations in the presence of an armed enemy. The Medal is always issued with a ribbon identifying the theatre or task in question, and each ribbon has its own criteria.

- **ALLIED FORCE**: Awarded for at least 30 days cumulative service in direct support of Operation ALLIED FORCE in Aviano and/or Vicenza, Italy or in Skopje, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia from 24 March to 10 June 1999.

- **SOUTH-WEST ASIA**: Awarded to:
  - Canadian civilians who served:
    - with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan for at least 30 days cumulative between 24 April 2003 and 31 July 2009, in the theatre of operations which consisted of the political boundaries and airspace of Afghanistan; and/or
    - in direct support of the Canadian military operations while deployed inside the theatre of operations consisting of the political boundaries of Afghanistan, the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea, the Suez Canal and those parts of the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea that are west of sixty-eight degrees East longitude and north of five degrees South latitude, as well as the airspace above the aforesaid areas for at least 30 cumulative days since 1 August 2009.
  - CF members and Canadian civilians who served:
    - in direct support of the Canadian participation to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan from outside the theatre of operations consisting of the political boundaries of Afghanistan and its airspace for at least 30 cumulative days between 24 April 2003 and 31 July 2009; and/or
    - in direct support, provided from outside the theatre of operations, of the Canadian military operations conducted in the theatre of operations consisting of the political boundaries of Afghanistan, the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea, the Suez Canal and those parts of the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea that are west of sixty-eight degrees East longitude and north of five degrees South latitude, as well as the airspace above those areas for at least 30 cumulative days since 1 August 2009;

- **EXPEDITION**: Awarded to those who served in approved locations outside Canada and outside a specific theatre to provide direct support to operations conducted in the presence of an armed enemy for at least 30 cumulative days commencing on 1 January 2003 provided that the service has not been recognized by another service medal.

Recipients of the Medal may receive a rotation bar for every subsequent period of 180 days of eligible service following eligibility for the Medal.
THE OPERATIONAL SERVICE MEDAL
The Operational Service Medal is awarded to military and police personnel, as well as other Canadian citizens working directly under their authority and control, who served in a theatre of operations, provided direct support on a full-time basis to operations conducted in such a theatre or served under dangerous circumstances outside Canada since 7 October 2001 provided the service has not been recognized by another service medal aside from the Canadian Peace-keeping Service Medal where appropriate. The Medal is always issued with a ribbon specific to the theatre or type of service being recognized, and each ribbon has its own criteria. So far six ribbons have been created, each requiring 30 days of accumulated eligible service:

- **SOUTH-WEST ASIA**: Recognizes non-CF service in this region from 7 October 2001;
- **SIERRA LEONE**: recognizes service in that country from 31 July 2002. Primarily intended for CF members who served with the British-led International Military Advisory and Training Team (IMATT) following the Lomé Peace Agreement (Op SCULPTURE);
- **HAITI**: Recognizes service in that country from 6 March 2004. Primarily intended for CF members who served with the US-led Multinational Interim Force (MIF) from 6 March to 16 August 2004 (Op HALO) as well as for direct support provided by the medical evacuation team in the Dominican Republic;
- **SUDAN**: Recognizes service in that country from 15 September 2004. Primarily intended for CF members who served with the African Union-led mission in Darfur from 15 September 2004 to 31 December 2007 (Op AUGURAL) as well as for direct support provided to the operations conducted in the Sudan from Ethiopia and Senegal;
- **HUMANITAS**: Replaces the HUMANITAS bar to the Special Service Medal (which was reserved for CF members only) as of 1 August 2009. This award recognizes service on approved humanitarian missions from 1 August 2009. This includes humanitarian relief service following the earthquake in Haiti from 12 January to 2 May 2010 (Op HESTIA). Service in Haiti itself as well as support provided from Barahona, Dominican Republic, and Kingston, Jamaica, during that period is eligible; and
- **EXPEDITION**: Recognizes smaller operations for which there are no medals available or service in dangerous circumstances outside of an existing theatre from 7 October 2001. This includes military service in the Middle East with the Office of the United States Security Coordinator (Op PROTEUS) from 3 May 2005, service in counter narcotics operations off the Westcoast of Africa from 17 April to 18 May 2006 (Op CHABANEL), and in the Caribbean Sea and East Pacific Ocean since 1 November 2006 (Op CARIBBE).

Recipients of the Medal may receive a rotation bar for every subsequent period of 180 days of eligible service following eligibility for the Medal.
THE SPECIAL SERVICE MEDAL

The Special Service Medal recognizes CF members who have performed a service under exceptional circumstances, in a clearly defined locality for a specified duration. The Medal recognizes approved activities underway on 11 June 1984, or subsequently established. This medal is always issued with a bar that identifies the special service being recognized, each bar having its own criteria.

PAKISTAN 1989-1990: For a minimum of 90 days service with the Mine Awareness and Clearance Training Program in Pakistan, between 15 March 1989 and 29 July 1990, under the auspices of the UN. This bar is no longer issued and may be exchanged for the UN Special Service Medal.

ALERT: For 180 days service at CF Station Alert since 1 September 1958.

HUMANITAS: For 30 days service in approved humanitarian operations outside Canada between 11 June 1984 and 31 July 2009, provided that service has not been acknowledged by any other award. In 2009, the Operational Service Medal with HUMANITAS ribbon superseded this bar.

NATO+OTAN: For 180 days service in a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) position or in a Canadian position under the operational control of NATO between 1 January 1951 and 19 October 2004, or service since 20 October 2004 with certain approved NATO operations for which there is no NATO medal. Thus far, the following elements have been approved as eligible for the NATO bar from 20 October 2004:
- Service onboard ships deployed under the Standing NATO Reaction Force Maritime Group 1 (SNMG 1, Op SEXTANT);
- Aircrrews flying surveillance missions with NATO AWACS from Geilenkirchen, Germany;
- Aircrrews flying NATO surveillance missions outside Canadian airspace;
- Service in support of Op ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR (Op SIRIUS) from the base in Sigonella, Italy, provided the service has not been recognized by the NATO medal for this operation. Multiplying factor of 6; and
- Service with the Forward Logistics Site (FLS) – Host Nation, in support of NATO operations and activities in relation to Africa, provided the service has not been recognized by the NATO medal for this operation. Multiplying factor of 6.

PEACE-PAIX: For 180 days peacekeeping service between November 1947 and 21 June 2001. It was issued for service which had not been recognized by any other award. In 2001, the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal (CPSM) superseded this bar.

RANGER: For four years service as a Canadian Ranger and completion of a minimum of three Ranger Patrol Exercises within Canada or its territorial and contiguous waters since 1947.
THE CANADIAN PEACEKEEPING SERVICE MEDAL
The **Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal** (CPSM) is awarded for a minimum of 30 days of service in an approved UN or international peacekeeping mission since 1947.

Peacekeeping missions that qualify for award of the CPSM will be carried out under the auspices of the United Nations, or with another international force, and the belligerents who agree to a peace-support deployment must also agree to participation by the CF. The types of missions to be included are support of preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping and post-conflict peace-building, and sanctions monitoring missions and monitoring no-fly zones (ie, observing and noting violations but not attempting enforcement).

**Reconciliation, Peacekeeping Monument.** This monument was erected on Confederation Boulevard in Ottawa to honour the contribution made by Canadian peacekeepers who have served in zones of conflict around the world. Three unarmed observers are featured on the monument – two men and a woman – standing on two sharp, knifelike edges of stone, cutting through the rubble and debris of war and converging at a high point, which symbolizes the resolution of conflict. The same three figures appear on the obverse of the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal.

Photo: National Defence Image Library
THE CANADIAN FORCES' DECORATION
CD
The Canadian Forces’ Decoration is awarded to officers and non-Commissioned members of the CF (Regular Forces, Reserve Forces, officers of the Cadet Organizations Administration and Training Service (COATS) and Canadian Rangers) who have completed twelve years of good and loyal service. The decoration is awarded to all ranks, who have a record of good conduct.

A clasp is awarded for every subsequent period of ten years of qualifying service. The award of the clasp to the CD is denoted on the undress ribbon with a small silver device in the form of a heraldic rose, referred to as a rosette.

The Sovereign as Fount of all honours, and the Sovereign’s representative in Canada, the Governor General and Commander-in-Chief, are deemed to meet all CD criteria. Service as a captain general, colonel-in-chief, colonel commandant, colonel of the regiment, honorary colonel or lieutenant-colonel is deemed to be active service. Personal appointments, such as Aide-de-Camp to a Lieutenant Governor, are not considered active service and therefore, are not on their own, eligible for the CD.

Captain(N) Stuart Moors presents the 2nd Clasp to the Canadian Forces’ Decoration to Chief Petty Officer 2nd Class Jean Pelletier at a medals parade on 25 February 2010 at Canadian Forces Base Halifax.

Photo: Formation Imaging Services, Halifax
MENTION IN DISPATCHES

MENTION IN DISPATCHES

CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF COMMENDATION

COMMAND COMMENDATION
MENTION IN DISPATCHES
AND COMMENDATIONS

The following awards are bestowed upon individuals whose acts or services do not quite meet the criteria for a decoration but are nonetheless worthy of recognition.

**Mentions in Dispatches** are national honours awarded for valiant conduct, devotion to duty or other distinguished service to members of the CF on active service and other individuals working with or in conjunction with the CF on or after 1 November 1990. The oak leaf is worn on the ribbon of the appropriate campaign or service medal. When no medal is associated with the action, the oak leaf is worn in the same manner as a commendation.

A maximum of one nomination for every 100 persons under command in theatre for a six months period should be made in war-like situations, the maximum being 1 for 200 in other operations.

The **Chief of the Defence Staff Commendation** is awarded by the Chief of the Defence Staff to recognize deeds or activities beyond the demand of normal duty.

The **Command Commendation** is awarded by a command to recognize a contribution affecting or reflecting well on the command.

The Chief of the Defence Staff presents the Mention in Dispatches insignia to Corporal Justin MacPherson at a ceremony held at CFB Petawawa on 30 June 2010.

Photo: DND
UNIT AND CIVILIAN RECOGNITION

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF UNIT COMMENDATION

PENANT OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF UNIT COMMENDATION

THE CANADIAN FORCES’ UNIT COMMENDATION

PENANT OF THE CANADIAN FORCES’ UNIT COMMENDATION

THE CANADIAN FORCES MEDALLION FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
UNIT AND CIVILIAN RECOGNITION

The **Commander-in-Chief Unit Commendation** may be awarded to any unit or sub-unit of the Canadian Forces, or to any similar organization of a foreign armed force working with or in conjunction with the CF, that has performed an extraordinary deed or activity of a rare high standard in extremely hazardous circumstances. The award is restricted to war or war-like conditions in an active theatre of operations.

The **Canadian Forces’ Unit Commendation** is a group award created to recognize distinguished service by a military unit. It is awarded to any formation, unit or sub-unit of the CF, or to any similar organization of a foreign armed force working with or in conjunction with the CF, that has performed a deed or activity considered beyond the demand of normal duty. It may be awarded to winners of competitions only under very exceptional circumstances.

The **Canadian Forces Medallion for Distinguished Service** is awarded by the Chief of the Defence Staff on behalf of the Canadian Forces to recognize outstanding service performed by persons other than active military personnel. It is awarded for service of a rare and exceptionally high standard, which accrues great benefit to the CF as a whole. Eligibility is open to any person or group, Canadian or foreign, other than active members of the CF or the armed forces of any other country.

The Governor General presents the pennant of the Commander-in-Chief Unit Commendation to the 1st Battalion of The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, from Petawawa, for courageous and professional execution of duty in Afghanistan, on 4 November 2010.

Photo: Sgt Serge Gouin, Rideau Hall
COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN AWARDS

- Insignia of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire
- British Operational Service Medal for Sierra Leone
- British Iraq Medal
- Insignia of a Legionnaire of the United States Legion of Merit
- United States Bronze Star Medal
- United States Meritorious Service Medal
- Knight of the French Legion of Honour
- French National Defence Medal (Bronze)
Canadian policy on **Commonwealth and foreign honours** requires Government approval before an order, decoration or medal can be awarded to one of its citizens. Otherwise, Canada will not recognize the honour, and it cannot be worn with national honours or on a CF uniform. Although the policy requires approval before an award, requests after the fact, which explain the presentation circumstances, may be considered.

To be recognized by Canada, foreign honours must emanate from a head of state or government. Awards originating by some other or lower authority are regarded as private honours and can be accepted as private mementoes only. Except for courtesy reasons at the moment of presentation, they cannot be worn with national honours or on a CF uniform. Canada will only approve honours which recognize meritorious activity. Canada does not engage in exchanges of honours, nor give or receive honours based solely on an individual’s status.

Requests to award foreign honours to Canadians must be submitted by the donating country to their diplomatic mission in Canada for approval by the Government Honours Policy Sub-Committee at Rideau Hall.

Newly enrolled CF members who have received honours for prior service with Commonwealth or foreign forces shall request permission to wear these honours on the CF uniform. The member’s Commanding Officer shall send a request to the Directorate of Honours and Recognition detailing the prior service of the member, the honours received and adjoining copies of documents from the force in question proving the member’s prior service and the award of the honours in question.

Captain Jeremy Keith Alexander Fountain receives his British Iraq Medal from His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, KG, KT, GCB, OM, AK, QSO, GCL, SOM, CD, ADC, at Clarence House, London, United Kingdom, on 27 January 2009.

Photo: © British Crown Copyright/MOD
MEMORIALS

THE MEMORIAL CROSS

THE MEMORIAL SCROLL

THE DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD MEDAL

THE MEMORIAL BAR
MEMORIALS

The **Memorial Cross** is granted by Her Majesty’s Canadian Government as a memento of personal loss and sacrifice in respect of military personnel who lay down their lives for their country. The Memorial Cross was created in 1919 and since 7 October 2001, it is granted to up to three recipients previously identified by the member whose death is the result of an injury or disease related to military service, regardless of location. In addition to the Crosses, the **Memorial Scroll** and the **Memorial Bar** are presented to the primary beneficiary of the estate of the deceased. The Scroll is a tradition restored from the First World War while the Bar is a Canadian memento issued during the Second World War and which is now intended to be included in a shadow box containing the medals and other souvenirs of the fallen or to be affixed on a picture frame.

The names of CF members who die as a result of military service are also inscribed in the 7th Book of Remembrance kept in the Memorial Chamber in the Peace Tower of the Centre Block of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa.

The **Dag Hammarskjöld Medal** is presented by the United Nations to the families of those who gave their lives in the service of the United Nations.

The flag-draped casket of a member of the Canadian Forces who died in the service of Canada is carried by military pallbearers at a ceremony of interment at the National Military Cemetery in Ottawa.

Photo: DND
The insignia of orders, decorations and medals shall be worn in the order shown below. Authorized post-nominal letters are indicated in brackets where appropriate and the recipients of those honours may place these letters, in accordance with the order of precedence, after their name where appropriate.

**ORDER OF PRECEDENCE**

Victoria Cross (VC)  
Cross of Valour (CV)  
Order of Merit (OM)  
Companion of the Order of Canada (CC)  
Officer of the Order of Canada (OC)  
Member of the Order of Canada (CM)  
Commander of the Order of Military Merit (CMM)  
Commander of the Order of Merit of the Police Forces (COM)  
Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (CVO)  
Officer of the Order of Military Merit (OMM)  
Officer of the Order of Merit of the Police Forces (OOM)  
Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order (LVO)  
Member of the Order of Military Merit (MMM)  
Member of the Order of Merit of the Police Forces (MOM)  
Member of the Royal Victorian Order (MVO)  
The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem (all grades)  
Order of Quebec (Ordre national du Québec) (GOQ, OQ, CQ)  
Saskatchewan Order of Merit (SOM)  
Order of Ontario (OOnt)  
Order of British Columbia (OBC)  
Alberta Order of Excellence (AOE)  
Order of Prince Edward Island (OPEI)  
Order of Manitoba (OM)  
Order of New Brunswick (ONB)  
Order of Nova Scotia (ONS)  
Order of Newfoundland and Labrador (ONL)  
Star of Military Valour (SMV)  
Star of Courage (SC)  
Meritorious Service Cross (MSC)  
Medal of Military Valour (MMV)  
Medal of Bravery (MB)  
Meritorious Service Medal (MSM)  
Royal Victorian Medal (RVM)  
Sacrifice Medal  
Somalia Medal  
South-West Asia Service Medal  
General Campaign Star  
Allied Force  
South-West Asia Expedition  
General Service Medal  
Allied Force  
South-West Asia Expedition  
Operational Service Medal  
South-West Asia  
Sierra Leone  
Haiti  
Sudan  
Humanitas  
Expedition  
Special Service Medal  
Pakistan 1989-90  
Alert  
Humanitas  
NATO/OTAN  
Peace/Paix  
Ranger  
Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal  
UN Emergency Force (Egypt/Sinai)  
UN Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine and Observer Group in Lebanon  
UN Military Observation Group in India and Pakistan  
UN Operation in Congo  
UN Temporary Executive Authority in West New Guinea  
UN Yemen Observation Mission  
UN Force in Cyprus  
UN India/Pakistan Observation Mission  
UN Emergency Force Middle East  
UN Disengagement Observation Force Golan Heights  
UN Interim Force in Lebanon  
UN Military Observation Group in Iran/Iraq  
UN Transition Assistance Group (Namibia)  
UN Observer Group in Central America  
UN Iraq/Kuwait Observer Mission  
UN Angola Verification Mission  
UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara  
UN Observer Mission in El Salvador  
UN Protection Force (Yugoslavia)  
UN Advance Mission in Cambodia  
UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia  
UN Operation in Somalia  
UN Operation in Mozambique  
UN Observation Mission in Uganda/Rwanda  
UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda  
UN Mission in Haiti  
UN Verification Mission in Guatemala  
UN Mission in the Central African Republic  
UN Preventive Deployment Force (Macedonia)  
UN Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina  
UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo  
UN Observer Mission in Sierra Leone
ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

UN Mission in East Timor and Transitional Administration in East Timor
UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea
UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti
UN Operation in Côte d’Ivoire
UN Mission in Sudan
UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste
UN Hybrid Mission with the African Union in Darfur
UN Special Service
UN Headquarters
NATO Medal for the Former Yugoslavia
NATO Medal for Kosovo
NATO Medal for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Article 5 NATO Medal for Operation “Eagle Assist”
Article 5 NATO Medal for Operation “Active Endeavour”
Non-Article 5 NATO Medal for operations in the Balkans
Non-Article 5 NATO Medal for the NATO Training Mission in Iraq
Non-Article 5 NATO Medal for NATO Logistical Support to the African Union Mission in Sudan
Non-Article 5 NATO Medal for Africa
International Commission for Supervision and Control (Indo-China)
International Commission for Control and Supervision (Vietnam)
Multinational Force and Observers (Sinai)
European Community Monitor Mission (Yugoslavia)
International Force East Timor
European Security and Defense Policy Service Medal
Canadian Centennial Medal
Queen Elizabeth II’s Silver Jubilee Medal
125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada Medal

United Nations Mission in Sudan Medal
Queen Elizabeth II’s Golden Jubilee Medal
R.C.M.P. Long Service Medal
Canadian Forces’ Decoration (CD)
Police Exemplary Service Medal
Corrections Exemplary Service Medal
Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal
Canadian Coast Guard Exemplary Service Medal
Emergency Medical Services Exemplary Service Medal
Peace Officer Exemplary Service Medal
Queen’s Medal for Champion Shot
Service Medal of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem
Commissionaire Long Service Medal
Commonwealth orders in order earned
Commonwealth decorations in order earned
Commonwealth medals in order earned
Foreign orders in order earned
Foreign decorations in order earned
Foreign medals in order earned

Non-Article 5 NATO Medal for Africa
WEARING HONOURS

The insignia of orders, decorations and medals shall be worn on the CF uniforms in accordance with CF dress regulations. They can also be worn on civilian attire; the basic rule is that full-size awards are worn for daytime events such as parades, investitures, commemorative ceremonies and services, speeches from the Throne, military or state funerals, levees, etc, while miniature awards are worn for night-time events such as mess dinners, banquets, balls, etc. Invitations should specify if medals will be worn. The medals shall be mounted and worn on civilian dress in a similar manner as on military dress, the ladies having the additional option of wearing neck badges and/or a single breast medal mounted on a bow on the left shoulder.

Whether in uniform or in civilian attire, only the official insignia of orders, decorations and medals, duly authorized by The Crown, may be worn. Unofficial, organizational medals or foreign honours which have not been approved by the Government of Canada shall not be mounted or worn in conjunction with official honours in any circumstances.

Contrary to popular belief, it is not permissible, and it is in fact a criminal offence, to wear the medals of a deceased family member or friend. Orders, decorations and medals are worn by individuals as a public and official mark of recognition for their courage, merit or service and it is therefore logical that only the original and intended recipient may wear them. After the recipient’s passing, the awards may remain in the family and even be put on display as heirlooms or given to a recognized museum but under no circumstances should the awards be worn by anyone other than the original recipient.
To obtain information on military honours or to make an application for or obtain a replacement of a modern Canadian, United Nations or NATO award, contact the Directorate of Honours and Recognition (DH&R):

www.cmp-cpm.forces.gc.ca/dhr-ddhr/index-eng.asp
1-877-741-8332
Directorate of Honours and Recognition
National Defence Headquarters
101 Colonel By Drive
Ottawa ON K1A 0K2

To obtain information on the Canadian Honours system, to make a nomination or obtain a replacement for a Canadian order or decoration (non-military), the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal (CVSM) for Korea and/or commemorative medals, contact the Chancellery of Honours at Rideau Hall:

www.gg.ca
1-800-465-6890
Chancellery of Honours
Rideau Hall
1 Sussex Drive
Ottawa ON K1A 0A1

To make an application for or obtain replacements of Second World War medals as well as those related to the Korean conflict (with the exception of the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal for Korea), contact Veterans Affairs Canada:

www.vac-acc.gc.ca
1-877-995-5003
Honours and Awards
Veterans Affairs Canada
66 Slater Street, Suite 1411
Ottawa ON K1A 0P4

OTHER RELATED REFERENCE WORKS

Canadian Forces Dress Instructions, A-AD-265-000/AG-001.


Honours & Recognition for the Men and Women of the Canadian Forces, DND DH&R, A-DH-300-000/AF-001, 002, 003 and 004.

Sequence for Wearing Orders, Decorations and Medals (Poster), DND-DH&R, A-DH 300-000/DA-001.


The Canadian Forces’ Decoration, Dr. Christopher McCreery, MVO, DND-DH&R, A-DH-300-000/JD-002.


The Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada and the Chief of the Defence Staff with the first recipients of the Military Valour Decorations following the inaugural investiture, Fairmont Château Laurier, Ottawa, 19 February 2007.

Seated, from left to right: Major William Hilton Fletcher, SMV, CD, General Rick Hillier, CMM, MSC, CD, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, CC, CMM, COM, CD, and Sergeant Patrick Tower, SMV, CD. Standing, from left to right: Master Corporal Collin Ryan Fitzgerald, MMV, Captain Derek Prohar, MMV, Sergeant Michael Thomas Victor Denine, MMV, CD and Corporal Jason Carl Allan Lamont, MMV.

Photo: MCpl Issa Paré

Strength through Personnel