



# LONG SERVICE AWARDS

## Frequently Asked Questions for Former Military Personnel

### ***Are there changes to the New Zealand Long Service Awards?***

Yes. New Royal Warrants and Regulations have recently been approved. All of the existing Long Service Awards will still be awarded, but the entitlement criteria have been enhanced. This will allow all eligible New Zealand military service across all Services to be counted, and service can be accumulated for any award, rather than having to be continuous. (As is currently required for some of the Territorial/Reserve Force awards).

This will deliver a fairer system while maintaining the high status of the long service awards. The award issued will reflect the majority of each recipient's service up to the point in time when they completed the qualifying service for an award. Persons who already have a Long Service Award will continue to wear the award they have. Note that there will be no swapping of awards.

For updates see the NZDF Medals website: <https://medals.nzdf.mil.nz> (internet link) or <http://medals.nzdf.dixs.mil.nz> (NZDF intranet link for currently employed NZDF staff)

### ***What has changed?***

- Persons who already have a Long Service Award will continue to wear the award that they already have. There will be no swapping of awards. They will qualify for additional clasps for that medal as their service total accumulates within the same requirement for 'good conduct'.
- It is estimated that at least 2,300 current serving members and 4,000 ex-serving members may be eligible for additional long service recognition as either new medals or additional clasps under the new regulations.
- The new regulations impact on:
  - All attested serving members of all three Services
  - Both serving and ex-serving military personnel
  - All ranks
  - Members of Regular and Territorial/Reserve Forces

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***With so many Long Service Awards to issue will there be an order in which the awards will be processed?***

- Yes. There will be two concurrent work streams of processing as follows:
  - One work stream for ex-serving, in order of application being received (<https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/assets/PAM/NZDF-PAM-F-18-LSA-AppIn-Aug-2020.pdf>); and
  - One work stream for current serving military personnel.

***How do I apply if I am no longer serving member of the NZDF?***

- You must complete the long service award application form (PAM F 18) which is downloadable from the NZDF Medals website <https://medals.nzdf.mil.nz> and is also available through your local RSA Club.

***I have a mixture of Regular Force and Territorial/Reserves service. Is there any easy guidance that can be given for me to see if I am likely to qualify?***

- First, all Regular Force service is counted down to the day. Qualification is also based on the Service 'good conduct' requirements being met.
- Second, any 'part time' service, i.e. Territorial Army, CMT or National Service, RNZNVR, or RNZAF TAF must be classed as 'efficient'. The requirements for efficiency have varied over the years since 1952, so there will need to be an individual calculation for each case to work out if you have met the qualification for a Long Service Award.
- Then the decision will be made on which Long Service Award you will receive that reflects the majority of your service towards a Long Service Award (e.g. the first 12 or 14 years combined of your Regular Force service and efficient Territorial/Reserves Force service).

***Why do lateral recruits from a foreign country/service (say the Royal Air Force - RAF) receive a second Long Service Award for their New Zealand service? Why not simply add a Bar to their original award?***

- In this case, the original RAF Long Service and Good Conduct Medal is recognition of their service in the RAF with the engraving showing their RAF service number, rank and details. After completion of the required service in the RNZAF, a second Long Service and Good Conduct Medal will be awarded to recognise their service in the RNZAF with the engraving showing their RNZAF service no. rank and service. The two medals are similar (now made by different suppliers) but distinct. The first medal is awarded on behalf of the Queen of the United Kingdom and the United Kingdom Government; the second medal on behalf of the Queen of New Zealand and the New Zealand Government.

***Is there any cost to receive this Long Service Award?***

- No. The medal will be provided to all personnel who qualify on the same basis as any other original medal issue. A full size and miniature medal plus ribbon will be provided in a presentation case.
- At the same time as the military file is being checked, any other unissued medal entitlement will be provided at no cost.

***What will be engraved on the rim of the full size medal?***

- Service number, rank (as at the date of qualification), initials, surname and Corps or Service (as at the date of qualification) will be engraved as is done on all medals. Note there may be differences in rank (and other details) if there are other medals issued – they will show the rank as at the date of qualification as well. Miniature medals and clasps are not engraved.

***Will I be able to have my existing medals remounted at Defence cost to include the Long Service Award or clasp?***

- No. The medal or clasp(s) will be provided to you at no cost, but it is up to you whether to decide if you have them mounted at your cost. If you decide not to mount them due to the additional costs involved, it is recommended that you store the additional award/s securely so your family have a full set of medals to inherit as part of your estate.