

# LONG SERVICE AWARDS

## Frequently Asked Questions for the General Public

### ***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 up to 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-Appln-Aug-2020.pdf>); and
  - One work stream for current serving military personnel.

***How do I apply if my family member served but is now deceased or unable to apply themselves?***

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

***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.

***My father served as a Regular Force Army Officer from 1954 to 1974 but did not receive a Long Service Award (the New Zealand Armed Forces Award) when it was introduced in 1985 as eligibility was only backdated to 1 December 1977.***

- Regular Force Commissioned Officers who served between 6 February 1952 and 30 November 1977 who have not already received a Long Service Award for their service may now qualify if they completed 15 years or more service.

***My late father served as a soldier (not an officer) in the Regular Force of the NZ Army for 23 years from 1957 to 1980 with good conduct. He received an Army LS&GSM in 1975. Will he qualify for a clasp to his LS&GCM under the new eligibility criteria?***

- Yes. Because he was still serving on (or after) 1 December 1977 and completed more than 21 years with good conduct, he will qualify for a clasp to his LS&GCM. Under the new eligibility criteria 14 years are required for the medal and seven years for each clasp.