



LONG SERVICE AWARDS

Frequently Asked Questions for Serving Military Personnel

Are there changes to the New Zealand Defence Force 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 can qualify for additional clasps for that medal. The requirement for 'good conduct' is the same.
- 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 Reserves/Territorial 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.

Due to the large number of eligible serving military personnel, it is expected to take over a year to issue awards to all those who are eligible. However all awards will be processed as soon as possible. Serving personnel are requested to be patient and to avoid contacting NZDF Personnel Archives and Medals. We know who you are and where you are from your SAP / ESS record.

I am a serving NCO and have just completed 15 years of service in the NZ Armed Forces. Do I need to apply for my LSA?

- No. NZDF Personnel Archives and Medals will automatically start the approval process, and then your Commanding Officer will be requested via SAP Task List to endorse the award, before final approval is sought from the appropriate Director of Career Management. You will be notified of the approval via NZDF email. For more information see http://orgs/imx/hr-toolkit/LP/070-1-2_lsea.aspx

I am still serving and already have a Long Service Award but believe I have completed the additional service that should qualify me for a clasp. Do I need to apply?

- No. NZDF Personnel Archives and Medals will automatically start the approval process, and then your Commanding Officer will be requested via SAP Task List to endorse the award, before final approval is sought from the Director of Career Management. You will be notified of the approval via NZDF email. We anticipate that Long Service Awards for current serving members will be issued over the next 18 months. For more information see http://orgs/imx/hr-toolkit/LP/070-1-2_lsea.aspx

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, RNZNVR, or RNZAF TAF must be classed as 'efficient'. If eligible, then NZDF PAM will determine which Long Service Award you will receive that reflects the majority of your qualifying service towards a Long Service Award (e.g. the first 12 or 14 years combined of your Regular Force service and efficient Territorial Force service).

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.

Will my Long Service Award (Medal and/or Clasp) be presented to me by a senior Officer of my Corps or Service?

- For Serving Military Personnel, typically the award would be presented on a Parade or at an organised presentation event where family and whanau can be invited to attend. There is no minimum rank required to present the award, however it should be presented by an appropriate person of higher rank than the recipient in order to acknowledge the service of the recipient. If there is an opportunity for a Senior Officer to present the award then such arrangements can be made by your Service on a case by case basis.
- For ex-Service personnel, who are now NZDF civilian employees you, will receive your medal or clasp via a signature required courier delivery to your home or workplace. If you wish to you can ask your manager for a presentation in your work area or unit, or contact your local RSA to check if there will be an opportunity to have a local presentation with senior RSA or serving Officers.

Will I be able to have my existing medals remounted at Defence cost after the presentation of a Long Service Award or clasp?

- Yes. The wearing of your full medal entitlement is a uniform requirement and you will follow the normal process through your local DSSG office to remount your medals and ribbon bars to meet the NZDF Medal Mounting Standard.

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.