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OIA-2026-5751

1st May 2026

A. Mosley

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Dear A. Mosley

I refer to your email of 7 April 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), *all available information about these types of badges (From all NZ Army Units), such as how they are worn, which specific units wear them, and examples of each badge being worn.*

Enclosed is a copy of NZ P23, Part 2, Chapter 3, Section 18 that provides relevant information.

In accordance with section 28(3) of the OIA, you may ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request. Information regarding the process is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that responses to official information requests are proactively released where possible. This response to your request will be published shortly on the NZDF website.

Yours sincerely

GA Motley

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF

Enclosure:

1. Extract from NZ P23, New Zealand Army Orders for Dress

Chapter 3 – Method of Wearing Dress Items

Section 18 – Miscellaneous Dress Distinctions

Vietnamese Gallantry Cross – 161 Battery and 2 NZATV

1. A dress distinction in the form of a Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with palm may be worn by eligible personnel. Provision and maintenance of the distinction is at unit expense.
2. The following personnel are entitled to wear the distinction:
 - a. All ranks on the posted strength of 161 Battery, RNZA and 2 NZATTV during those units periods of active service in Vietnam 1965-1972. Those personnel who served after qualifying in Australia with the Australian Army Training Team, Vietnam.
 - b. All ranks on the posted strength of 161 Battery, RNZA. Personnel, unless qualified under the provision of the preceding paragraph, will cease to wear the distinction when posted from the strength of the unit.
3. The distinction is to be worn centrally above the right breast pocket. It may be worn on all versions of dress 1.

United States Army Meritorious Unit Commendation

4. The United States Army meritorious unit commendation may be worn by eligible personnel as detailed below.
 - a. All ranks on the posted strength of 161 Battery, RNZA or who have served with the NZ Army assigned to the United States Army, 173 Airborne Brigade in Vietnam, July 1965 - June 1966.
 - b. All ranks on the posted strength of 161 Battery, RNZA. Personnel, unless qualified under the provisions of paragraph 4a of this section, are to cease to wear the commendation when posted from the strength of that unit.

Chief of Defence Force (CDF) Commendation

5. The CDF commendation is to be worn by entitled personnel, with all versions of dress 1, dress 8A, dress 8B and dress 8C. The commendation is to be centrally placed 5 mm above the flap of the right breast pocket, or in an equivalent position for servicewomen. If a name-tag is worn, the commendation is to be centrally placed 5mm above the nametag. If the wearer is also entitled to wear the Chief of Army (CA) commendation, the CA commendation is to be worn to the left of the CDF commendation.
6. Whilst in dress 2, the commendation is to be positioned 19 mm above the crown of the collar dog on the right lapel.
7. When wearing the sash the commendation is to be attached to the sash in the same position as if attached to the shirt.
8. The CDF commendation is not to be worn until it has been formally presented by the CDF.

Chief of Army Commendation

9. The CA commendation is to be worn by entitled personnel with all versions of dress 1, dress 8A, dress 8B and dress 8C. The commendation is to be centrally placed 5 mm above the flap of the right breast pocket or in an equivalent position for servicewomen. If a name-tag is worn, the commendation is to be centrally placed 5 mm above the nametag. If the wearer is also entitled to wear the CDF commendation, the CA commendation is to be worn to the left of the CDF commendation.

10. Whilst in dress 2, the commendation is to be positioned 19 mm above the crown of the collar dog on the right lapel.
11. When wearing the sash the commendation is to be attached to the sash in the same position as if attached to the shirt.
12. The CA commendation is not to be worn until it has been formally presented by the CA.

Governor Generals Household Badge

13. The Governor General's (GG) household badge is worn by service personnel for recognition of their appointment as Aide-De-Camp (ADC) to the GG.
14. The badge is worn whilst carrying out the role as ADC, at the cessation of their duties, ADC's are entitled to keep the badge as a memento but it must no longer be worn on uniform.
15. The badge is worn above the left breast pocket, female service dress jackets do not have breast pockets, in this instance the shirt breast pocket is to be used as a guide. The position of the badge is to be 10 mm above any service medals/ribbons or service commendations on all forms of service and mess dress.

Red Diamond

16. The red diamond recognises the historical lineage and enduring relationship from 1 NZ Regiment, through 2 NZ Regiment, to 22 Battalion, 2 NZEF. It is used as a badge of qualification to be worn by all personnel who have successfully completed either the Regular Force Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (RF RNZIR) Corps Training, RF Combat Corps Training, or the RF RNZIR Platoon Commander's course.
17. The red diamond is to be sewn onto the left sleeve with the top of the diamond central on the sleeve and 90 mm below the shoulder seam for all forms of dress 1.

Black Blazes

18. To mark the close connection between the 5th and 7th Battalions, RNZIR and the NZ Rifle Brigade, 1 NZEF of World War I, the distinctive black blaze of the NZ Rifle Brigade is to be worn by members of the 5/7 Battalion, RNZIR on dress 1. The blazes are to be provided at unit non-public expense. They are to be neatly sewn on the right sleeve only, positioned with the upper point of the blaze 90 mm below the shoulder seam for the jacket, and 12 mm below the shoulder seam for the short sleeve shirt.
19. The specific blazes to be worn by battalion headquarters and sub-units are:
 - a. **Battalion Headquarters (Bn HQ).** An eight-pointed star made up of two superimposed squares with 37 mm sides (originally worn by 3rd Rifle Brigade Headquarters) with the Roman numerals of five and seven either side of the centrally placed 1888 pattern infantry bayonet.



- b. **East Coast Company (EC Coy) and Wellington Company (Wgtn Coy).** An eight-pointed star made up of two superimposed squares with 37 mm sides with the 7 WnHB Bn Gp stag collar dog embroidered centrally.



- c. **West Coast Company (WC Coy).** An eight-pointed star made up of two superimposed squares with 37mm sides with the 5 WWCT Bn Gp phoenix collar dog embroidered centrally.

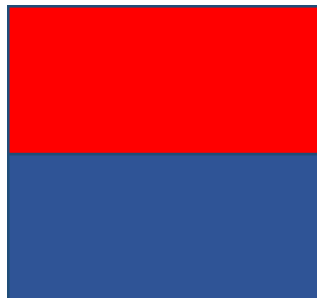


Red over Blue Square

20. The Red over Blue Square (30 mm x 30 mm) is to be worn as a badge of qualification by all personnel qualified on the RNZA corps training course or RNZA's Young Officers course.

21. To recognise the historical relationship to the Royal Artillery, all RNZA personnel are to wear the Red over Blue Square on all forms of dress 1.

22. The Red over Blue Square is to be sewn onto the left sleeve with the top of the square central on the sleeve and 90 mm below the shoulder seam. Red of the square at the top and blue to the bottom as you look at it.



Korean Presidential Unit Citation

23. The Korean Presidential Unit Citation may be worn by eligible personnel as detailed below.
- a. All ranks on the posted strength of 16th Field Regiment, RNZA in Korea over the period 23-25 April 1951.
 - b. All ranks on the posted strength of 16th Field Regiment, RNZA. Personnel, unless qualified under the provisions of paragraph 1a of this section, are to cease to wear the commendation when posted from the strength of that unit.

2nd/4th Battalion, RNZIR Distinguishing Patch

24. To acknowledge and distinguish the close connections between the 2nd/4th Battalion, RNZIR and the 1st Canterbury and 1st Otago Battalions of the New Zealand Rifle Brigade, 1 NZEF of WW1. The distinctive Blue and Red diamond (Canterbury) and Gold and Blue diamond (Otago), inlayed with the regimental cap badges from the WW1 regiments will be worn by members of the 2nd/4th Battalion, RNZIR on dress 1.

25. The distinguishing patches are to be provided at unit expense and sewn central on the right side with the top of the diamond 90mm below the shoulder seam on the jacket and the short sleeve shirt.

26. The specific diamond to be worn by battalion headquarters and sub units are:

- a. Nelson (A Coy). A Blue and Red Diamond with 50mm sides with a gold stag embroidered centrally.



- b. Greymouth (A Coy). A Blue and Red diamond with 50mm sides with the gold Roman numeral 13 embroidered centrally.



- c. Canterbury (A Coy). A Blue and Red diamond with 50mm sides with gold heron embroidered centrally.



- d. Timaru (A Coy). A Blue and Red diamond with 50mm sides with a gold Maltese cross embroidered centrally.



- e. Dunedin (B Coy). A Gold and Blue diamond with 50mm sides with a red Kiwi embroidered centrally.



- f. Central Otago (B Coy). A Gold and Blue diamond with 50mm sides with a red Kea embroidered centrally.



- g. Southland (B Coy). A Gold and Blue diamond with 50mm sides with a red Māori Toa embroidered centrally.



- h. Battalion Headquarters (Bn HQ). A Red and Gold diamond with 50mm sides representing both halves of Canterbury and Otago's distinguishing colours, inlaid with the numbers 2 and 4 in blue, either side of an Infantry bayonet in blue.



1st Battalion RNZIR

27. To acknowledge 1 RNZIR's unique history from its relationship to the Divisional Cavalry to its linkages with the RNZAC, the following dress distinctions apply to all personnel posted to 1 RNZIR, regardless of corps:

- a. The RNZIR hat badge is blackened in a matte finish to acknowledge the Divisional Cavalry, and the Unit's previous and current serving members of the RNZAC and RNZIR¹.



- b. A red and green diamond (with the red half uppermost) with sides of 45mm x 45mm in length sewn onto the beret behind the blackened RNZIR hat badge. The red and green colours represent the unit colours of 1 RNZIR and the colours associated with the RNZAC².



Notes:

¹ The blackened RNZIR hat badge is a Scale of Entitlement item for personnel posted to 1 RNZIR.

² Provided at unit expense and sewn behind the blackened RNZIR hat badge.