

MEDALLIC PRINCIPLES FOR THE RECOGNITION OF OPERATIONAL SERVICE

Approved by the NZ Cabinet on 17 April 2000.

The following principles provide a framework for the recognition of service that exceeds the normal requirements of peacetime service, principally in terms of the level of risk and the role of the military forces involved.

PRINCIPLE 1

Medals are awarded to recognise service that is beyond the normal requirements of peacetime service. Medallion recognition will be provided only where NZDF units or personnel are engaged in operations, whether warlike or non-warlike. In this context, non-warlike operations include peacekeeping operations or other hazardous activities. The nature of the service performed will be the primary consideration for the medallion recognition of operational service. Additional considerations include details of the area of operations, enemy faced or parties dealt with, and time served in the location. Awards may be either a specific New Zealand campaign medal or the NZ GSM in silver or bronze.

PRINCIPLE 2

Deserving service by New Zealand personnel should be recognised by a New Zealand award. Where New Zealand personnel are involved in an operation that meets the definitions described in Principle 1, that service is to be recognised by a New Zealand award.

PRINCIPLE 3

There must be a balance between maintaining the exclusivity of awards and recognising significant service. While service that meets the requirements of these principles will be recognised, the prestige of awards depends to a degree on their exclusiveness. Service associated with a particular operation or operational area will not necessarily qualify for the recognition extended to personnel serving in that operation or operational area. For example, recognition might not be appropriate for logistic support to a deployed force or planning activities in a headquarters outside the operational area.

PRINCIPLE 4

In all but exceptional circumstances, there should be only one New Zealand medal to recognise each period of operational service. Awards made under the Imperial system, prior to the establishment of the New Zealand General Service Medal, remain New Zealand medals that were awarded on the advice of the New Zealand Government. Specific New

Zealand medals will not be awarded in respect of service already recognised by an existing New Zealand or Imperial award.

PRINCIPLE 5

Awards will be continued only where the service rendered continues to meet all other requirements for the award of a medal. One particular consideration must be the end date of a period of medallic recognition. This applies particularly to long-running operations or peace-support missions where the situation that originally merited the award of a medal, changes to the extent that such recognition is no longer appropriate, especially where the service no longer meets the definitions of warlike or non-warlike operations. A system of review is to be instituted to ensure that where the nature of service in a particular mission changes, consideration is given to reviewing and, if necessary, to changing any associated medallic recognition.

PRINCIPLE 6

Medals for operational service should be open for award to civilians in appropriate circumstances. These circumstances will include situations where the New Zealand Government deploys Police or other civilians to operations or where civilians are working with the NZDF or other New Zealand Government contribution as part of a deployed force.

PRINCIPLE 7

The fairness and integrity of any award must be transparent, and such awards should also be timely. The usual criterion for timeliness, as applied most particularly to gallantry awards, is that recognition should follow within five years of the event. Where it is necessary to exceed that limit, there should be evidence of a substantial grievance that requires redress, claims from individuals should be verifiable from official records, and a significant number of participants should be able to claim a medal personally.

PRINCIPLE 8

Approval will be sought to accept and wear medals awarded by foreign governments or international organisations, where the service performed by New Zealand personnel is consistent with the other principles for medallic recognition. Operational service by New Zealand personnel may attract the award of medals from foreign governments or international organisations, such as the United Nations. Royal permission is required for such medals to be accepted and worn by New Zealand personnel. Normally, only one foreign or international medal will be considered for unrestricted wearing in addition to a New Zealand medal. The award of non-New Zealand medals will not affect the decision to issue a New Zealand medal.