



Australian Government

IT'S AN HONOUR

Australia Celebrating Australians

Meritorious Unit Citation

The Meritorious Unit Citation recognises sustained outstanding service in warlike operations.

About the award

The Meritorious Unit Citation and the Unit Citation for Gallantry were introduced into the Australian Honours System in 1991.

Unlike awards for individuals, recognition of group endeavour has little history in honours systems around the world. The relatively recent tradition of unit citations introduced by the United States in 1942, has prompted broader recognition of collective endeavour.

The Meritorious Unit Citation was formally established on 15 January 1991 by Letters Patent.

Recipient story

During the Australian Defence Force's deployment to East Timor following the 1999 consultation ballot a citation was awarded to:

- Task Unit 645.1.1, Royal Australian Navy - for sustained outstanding service in support of the International Force East Timor during Operation Stabilise.
- 3 Squadron Group, the Special Air Service Regiment, Australian Army - for sustained outstanding service as the Special Air Service Regiment of the Response Force for Operation Warden.
- No 2 Airfield Defence Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force - for sustained outstanding service during Operation Warden and Operation Stabilise.

At June 2005, a total of twelve Meritorious Unit Citation awards had been made.

How it is awarded

The Governor-General awards the Meritorious Unit Citation on the recommendation of the Minister for Defence.

Each citation consists of a certificate of citation to the unit signed by the Governor-General and insignia for each recipient.

Insignia may be awarded posthumously.



The design of a Meritorious Unit Citation is a gilt sterling-silver frame, with a design of flames emanating from the edge to the centre.

Medal design

The design of a Meritorious Unit Citation is a gilt sterling-silver frame, with a design of flames emanating from the edge to the centre. The frame surrounds a ribbon bar of old gold, which displays a rhodium-silver frame, sterling-silver Federation Star on its centre.

Members who join a unit after the citation is awarded may be entitled to wear the insignia but without the Federation Star.

Fast facts

POST NOMINAL:

None

INTRODUCED INTO THE AUSTRALIAN HONOURS SYSTEM:

1991

NUMBER AWARDED:

12 as at June 2005

NOMINATIONS:

The Minister for Defence puts forward recommendations.

More information

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IT'S AN HONOUR WEBSITE: www.itsanhonour.gov.au