



AFP Recognition Framework

Part II

Foreign, State, Government and Other Service Awards

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1) Introduction

- a) Foreign Governments and certain authorities recognised by the Australian Government confer honours or awards (Foreign Awards) on Australian Federal Police (AFP) Employees which include, inter alia, recognition for gallantry in operations, bravery in civil actions or for meritorious or outstanding service.
- b) Certain commercial commemorative medals are available to commemorate particular service or events. These medals are not endorsed by the government and accordingly, do not have any official standing nor appear in the Australian Order of Wearing. Consequently, they cannot be worn on AFP Uniforms.
- c) The Australian Defence Force, State Governments and other Services such as Police or the Emergency Services, have established internal award structures which do not form part of the Australian System of

Honours and Awards, approval for the wearing of which being subject to the equivalence rule (as outlined at paragraph 9).

2) Foreign Awards

- a) Subject to prescribed conditions, a member of the AFP may accept and wear a Foreign Award when an offer is made by:
 - i) the Head of State, or the Government, of a country with which Australia maintains diplomatic relations;
 - ii) an official agency of the United Nations; or
 - iii) any other international organisation recognised diplomatically by Australia.
- b) A proposal to confer a Foreign Award upon an AFP Employee should be made in advance through recognised diplomatic or other official channels with full details of the reasons for the proposed awards.
- c) Foreign Awards presented to an AFP Employee without prior warning may be accepted to avoid giving offence. However, arrangements should be made as soon as possible for a formal approach through diplomatic or other official channels.

Note: An AFP Employee who receives an award under the auspices of officially sanctioned United Nations Peace Keeping Operations is not required to submit a request for approval to wear the award, this process being automatically generated once entitlement is identified.

3) Application for Acceptance and Wearing of Foreign Awards

- a) Permission for the formal acceptance and wearing of Foreign Awards can be given by the Governor General, on the advice of the Prime Minister or the Minister for Justice and Customs.
- b) A request for the formal acceptance and wearing of foreign awards to an AFP Employee will, in the first instance, be subject to advice from the Team Leader Recognition and Ceremonial Team to the Commissioner.
- c) A 'Request for Approval to Accept and Wear a Foreign/State Government/Other Service Award' will be submitted to the Team Leader, Recognition and Ceremonial Team which includes, but is not limited to:
 - i) full service details, including full name, rank, service number, and team;
 - ii) certified true copies of proof of issue;
 - iii) an image of the full award/decoration;
 - iv) details of the ribbon (if applicable as worn on uniform of the day); and

- v) details relating to the appropriate positioning of the award as practiced by the issuing authority;
 - vi) details of the reason for the conferral of the award
- d) There is no objection to foreign awards presented without official permission being worn on the right breast at private functions, at special services, commemorations or at ceremonies held in connection with that country.
 - e) Approved Foreign Awards, in accordance with The Order of Wearing Australian Honours and Awards, are positioned on the left breast immediately after all Australian Honours and Awards, and in the order of date of approval.

4) Foreign Service Awards and Commendations

- a) Assessment of the eligibility for an AFP Employee to wear Foreign Service Awards and Commendations will be based on a principle of performance and approval to wear such awards will only be sought where that award has an equivalent within the Australian System of Honours and Awards.
- b) Foreign Service Commendations do not have an equivalent within the Australian system of honours and awards, and therefore will not be considered for approval for wearing on the AFP Uniform.

5) Foreign Awards - Use of Post Nominal's

Foreign Awards which provide for the use of post nominal's or titles in their country or origin may only be accepted on the understanding that the use of the post nominal or honorary titles by Australians in Australia will not be recognised officially and will not be used by an AFP Employee.

6) State Government and Other Service Awards

State Government and other Service awards include, but are not limited to, Police Long and Ethical Service, Meritorious Awards, Commendations and Group Citations.

7) Application for Acceptance and Wearing of State Government/Other Service Awards

- a) A member who wishes to wear such an award on AFP Uniform will, prior to wearing the award, submit a 'Request for Approval to Accept and Wear a Foreign/State Government/Other Service Award' to the Team Leader, Recognition and Ceremonial Team which includes, but is not limited to:
 - i) full service details, including full name, rank, service number, and team;
 - ii) certified true copies of proof of issue;

- iii) an image of the full award/decoration;
 - iv) details of the ribbon (if applicable as worn on uniform of the day);
and
 - v) details of the reason for the conferral of the award
- b) If recognised for wearing on AFP Uniform, the award is to be worn on the right breast in accordance with AFP Internal Honours and Awards Order of Precedence and the AFP National Guideline, Uniform and Standards of Dress.

8) Exclusions

- a) Foreign Awards excluded from wearing on AFP Uniform include:
- i) those earned in the service of a country with which Australia was at war at the time;
 - ii) those earned in the service of a country which has not been recognised by Australia or was not recognised at the time of the award;
 - iii) those earned in a military operation that was contrary to the type of operations to which the Australian Government would commit to;
 - iv) those earned whilst serving as a mercenary;
 - v) those with significantly different criteria of eligibility from those of the Australian system of honours and awards, for example, the purple heart and long service awards with qualifying periods of less than 15 years; or
 - vi) those earned for operations, other than United Nations operations, which an Australian government had declined to support.

9) Equivalence Rule

- a) Before being recognised for wearing on the AFP Uniform, each Foreign/State Government/Other Service Honour or Award will also be subject to an equivalency test against the Australian Honours and Awards System (Foreign Awards) and the AFP Internal Awards Framework (State Government/Other Service Awards).
- b) Equivalencies for Foreign Awards to the Australian Honours or Awards System may broadly be categorised as follows:

ii) ***Long Service Awards***

Long service awards earned with a foreign force may be considered for approval on AFP Uniform only if the qualifying period for the award is at least 15 years service.

iii) ***Awards for Non-Warlike Service***

Non-operational awards should have equivalence with the conditions for the awards of the Australian Service Medal, the Conspicuous Service Decorations, an award within the Order of Australia, or a Bravery Decoration.

General issues of medals such as independence or anniversary medals have no Australian equivalent and, unless awarded to an individual for a specifically defined activity or achievement that established equivalence, will not be approved. In a similar manner, medals that recognise a particular military proficiency such as marksmanship or high altitude service will not be approved for wearing.

iv) ***Awards for Warlike Service***

Provided the award is not subject to absolute exclusion, it should have equivalence with the conditions of the award of Gallantry and Distinguished Service Decoration, the Australian Active Service Medal or Unit Citations for Gallantry or Meritorious Service. The nature of the operation for which the award was earned must be compatible with tasks that would likely to be undertaken by the Australian Defence Force for the award of warlike awards.

v) ***United Nations Awards.***

United Nations activities are a Security Council function and personnel who earned an award in such circumstances while serving with a foreign force, and who seek recognition to wear on the AFP Uniform, would normally be given approval to do so.

c) Equivalencies for State Government/Other Service Awards to the AFP Internal Awards may broadly be categorised as follows:

vi) ***Long Service Awards***

Long service awards earned with State Government/Other Services may be considered for approval on AFP Uniform only if the qualifying period for the award is at least 10 years service.

vii) ***Diligent/Meritorious/Valour/Bravery Awards***

Awards should have equivalence with the conditions for the awards of the AFP Internal Awards Framework (Meritorious, Long Service and Good Conduct, Operations Medals, Commendations and Group Citations).

10) References

- The Order of Wearing Australian Honours and Awards

- Guidelines Concerning the Acceptance and Wearing of Foreign Honours and Awards by Australians
- AFP National Guideline, Uniform and Standards of Dress
- Application to wear Foreign/State Award