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# DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

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19.04.04

Minister Assisting the Prime Minister  
(for signature)

## THE HUMANITARIAN OVERSEAS SERVICE MEDAL – IRAQ

**Timing:** Routine

**Purpose:** To seek the Governor-General's declaration of service in Iraq for the award of the *Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal*.

**Background:** The *Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal* recognises humanitarian service by civilians in overseas countries during times of hazard to distressed persons. To date, service in the Balkans; Cambodia; East Timor; Great Lakes (Rwanda); Mozambique; Northern Iraq; Somalia; South Sudan and South Vietnam has been approved.

Following an assessment of service in Iraq and consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Defence, it has been agreed that service in Iraq meets the criteria of the Medal regulations and should be declared as eligible service for the Medal. Separately, members of the Australian Defence Force have had their service in Iraq recognised by appropriate military medals. They will not qualify for the *Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal*.

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**Recommendation:** That you:

- (1) sign (but not date) the enclosed determination; and
- (2) sign the covering letter to the Governor-General.

~~Signed/Not Signed~~

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Paul O'Neill  
Assistant Secretary  
Awards and National Symbols Branch

Ph: 6271-5601

Gary Hardgrave

19 April 2004

DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

PM&C  
Secretary  
Ms Foster  
Mr Reid  
Mr Rush  
Mr Martin

To: Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister

HUMANITARIAN OVERSEAS SERVICE MEDAL - DECLARATIONS FOR  
EVENTS IN s22 WEST AFRICA, s22

PMO  
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AMO  
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Recommendations - that you:

- 1. Agree to recommend to the Governor-General that he make declarations that recognise Australian contributions to the following humanitarian relief operations through the award of the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal:

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- b. the Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2014 and 2015;

Agreed / Not Agreed

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- 2. Sign the letter to the Governor-General (Attachment A) and the declarations (above your signature block on the first page of each declaration) (Attachment s2 C, s22).

Signed / Not Signed

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STEVE IRONS

Date:

9/1/19

Comments:

Key Points:

- 1. The Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal (HOSM) recognises members of Australian organisations, and members of Australian contingents to international organisations, who are exposed to risk or danger in the course of providing significant emergency humanitarian aid to civilians overseas.
- 2. The humanitarian relief operations in s22 West Africa (Ebola outbreak), s22 were compared to the conditions encountered in operations previously recognised by the award of the HOSM.
  - a. The scale and conditions of each of the s47E(d) were assessed as being broadly equivalent to previous operations. s47C

s47C

s47C & s47E(d)

4. Consultations have since been undertaken with the Departments of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Health and Defence, as well as Emergency Management Australia, the Australian Honours and Award Secretariat at Government House and agencies who participated in the humanitarian response. Consultations have been necessarily thorough to ensure that all organisations that participated in the relief operation have had the opportunity to provide detailed submissions to avoid any confusion about eligibility of personnel.
  - a. Australian Government agencies that contributed to the humanitarian relief operations are supportive of the award of the HOSM.
5. The s47E declarations detail the eligibility criteria for each event and were developed in consultation with the abovementioned agencies. A summary of each event and the eligibility criteria for the award of the HOSM follows:

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- b. The Ebola outbreak in West Africa in March 2014 was the largest and most complex Ebola outbreak since the virus was discovered in 1976. A total of 28,616 Ebola cases were reported, resulting in 11,310 deaths.
      - i. The eligibility criteria specify: the period of the declared operation as 1 March 2014 to 29 March 2016 (the date the World Health Organisation declared the emergency ended); the operational area as Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea; and the qualifying period as 30 days (in-line with other similar events). Eligible organisations are listed in the Declaration at Attachment C.

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6. Once the declarations are made, eligible agencies will be invited to submit the names of personnel to this Department for assessment and, if eligible, provision to the Governor-General for approval and award of the Medal. s47C

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**Background:**

7. In accordance with the *Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal Regulations 2011*, the Minister makes a recommendation to the Governor-General to declare an operation as eligible for the award. The eligibility criteria for the award, including details such as the location and dates of service and eligible organisations (the members of whom can apply for the Medal), are set out in the Governor-General's declaration for each eligible operation.

Peter Rush  
Assistant Secretary  
Parliamentary and Government Branch  
18 December 2018

Policy Officer: s22  
Phone no: s22  
Consultation: DFAT, Defence, Health,  
EMA, Government House, OPC



# DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

Secretary  
Mr Lewis  
PMO (4)

48962.  
AS TC

Prime Minister (for approval)

## THE HUMANITARIAN OVERSEAS SERVICE MEDAL – TSUNAMI 2004 AND FUTURE NATURAL DISASTERS

**Timing:** Urgent s47E(d) [redacted] to enable the *Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal* (HOSM) to be awarded to the victims and survivors of the Sea King helicopter disaster in time for the funeral service on 15 April 2005.

s47C & s47E(d) [redacted]

[redacted] s47C [redacted]

s47C [redacted]

s47C [redacted]

### Recommendation:

- That you agree to the extension of the HOSM as described above; and
- That you sign in black ink:
  - the letter to Her Majesty and the covering letter to the Administrator; and
  - two sets of the Letters Patent (do not sign the regulations or date these documents).

Agreed/Not agreed

Signed/Not signed

s22 [redacted]

Barbara Belcher  
First Assistant Secretary  
Government Division

7 April 2005

Contact: Paul O'Neill s22 [redacted]  
Consultation: Defence

s22 [redacted]

(John Howard)

[Handwritten signature]

# DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

Secretary  
Mr Lewis  
PMO (4)

LTH 50427

Prime Minister (for approval)

## THE HUMANITARIAN OVERSEAS SERVICE MEDAL – TSUNAMI 2004/SEA KING HELICOPTER DISASTER

**Timing: Urgent.** To enable the *Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal* (HOSM) to be awarded to the victims and survivors of the Sea King helicopter disaster in time for the funeral service on 15 April 2005.

**Issue:** Recognition of members of military and civilian organisations providing humanitarian aid as part of the Australian response to the Indian Ocean Tsunami.

**Background:** The *Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal* (HOSM) is the pre-eminent Australian award to recognise humanitarian service with approved organisations in hazardous circumstances outside Australia. s47C

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s42 & s47C

s47E(d)

s47C

A separate paper dealing with recognition arrangements for members of government and non-government organisations in Australia responding to the tsunami is being prepared for your consideration.

**Recommendation:** That you:

1. agree to the extension of the HOSM as described above; and
2. sign the enclosed letter to the Governor-General s47E(d)

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Andrew Metcalfe  
Deputy Secretary

Agreed/Not agreed

Signed/Not signed

*This brief was revised.*

6 April 2005

Contact: Paul O'Neill s22

Consultation: Government House, Defence, DFAT, AusAID, AFP, AGS

s22

23/4/05

(John Howard)