

DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

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

PMO
Dr Kunkel
s22

AMO
s22

To: Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister

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

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 s22, C, s22).

Signed / Not Signed

STEVE IRONS

s22

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 four operations were assessed as being broadly equivalent to previous operations. s47C

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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 four 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
s47C four events.

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

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ATTACHMENTS

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ATTACHMENT C HOSM (WEST AFRICA) DECLARATION 2019

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Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal (West Africa) Declaration 2019

I, General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Ret'd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, acting on the recommendation of the Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, make the following declaration.

Dated

2019

Peter Cosgrove
Governor-General

By His Excellency's Command

Stephen Irons
Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister
Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister

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1 Name

This instrument is the *Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal (West Africa) Declaration 2019*.

2 Commencement

- (1) Each provision of this instrument specified in column 1 of the table commences, or is taken to have commenced, in accordance with column 2 of the table. Any other statement in column 2 has effect according to its terms.

Commencement information		
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Provisions	Commencement	Date/Details
1. The whole of this instrument	The day this instrument is made.	

Note: This table relates only to the provisions of this instrument as originally made. It will not be amended to deal with any later amendments of this instrument.

- (2) Any information in column 3 of the table is not part of this instrument. Information may be inserted in this column, or information in it may be edited, in any published version of this instrument.

3 Authority

This instrument is made under regulations 3, 4 and 5 of the *Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal Regulations 2011*, being the Regulations set out in the Schedule to the Letters Patent dated 23 October 2011, as amended by Letters Patent dated 18 January 2013 and 30 March 2015.

4 Definitions

In this instrument:

declared operation means the operation referred to in section 5.

Regulations means the *Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal Regulations 2011*, being the Regulations set out in the Schedule to the Letters Patent dated 23 October 2011, as amended by Letters Patent dated 18 January 2013 and 30 March 2015.

5 Declared operation

For the purposes of subregulations 3(1) and (7) of the Regulations, the humanitarian aid operation that commenced on 1 March 2014 arising out of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa is a declared operation.

Section 6

6 Name of operation

For the purposes of paragraph 4(1)(a) of the Regulations, the name by which the declared operation is to be known is “West Africa”.

7 Operational area

For the purposes of paragraph 4(1)(b) of the Regulations, the operational area of the declared operation is Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea.

8 Period of declared operation

For the purposes of subparagraph 4(1)(c)(i) of the Regulations, the period during which the declared operation occurred is the period beginning on 1 March 2014 and ending on 29 March 2016.

9 Organisations

- (1) For the purposes of subregulation 5(1) of the Regulations, the following organisations are specified:
 - (a) Aspen Medical;
 - (b) Australian Red Cross Society;
 - (c) the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
 - (d) Medecins Sans Frontieres Australia Ltd;
 - (e) RedR Australia Limited;
 - (f) Save the Children Australia.
- (2) For the purposes of subparagraph 5(5)(a)(i) of the Regulations, the period during which each organisation specified in subsection (1) participated in the declared operation is the period beginning on 1 March 2014 and ending on 29 March 2016.

10 Qualifying period of service

- (1) For the purposes of paragraph 5(5)(b) of the Regulations, the qualifying period of service is any 30 day period during the period beginning on 1 March 2014 and ending on 29 March 2016.
- (2) For the purposes of paragraph 5(5)(c) of the Regulations, periods of qualifying service may be aggregated from several periods of service in one or more organisations.
- (3) For the purposes of paragraph 5(5)(d) of the Regulations, inspection visits may be counted as humanitarian service.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

Prime Minister (for approval)

Secretary
Mr Lewis
PMO (4)48962.
AS TC.THE HUMANITARIAN OVERSEAS SERVICE MEDAL – TSUNAMI 2004 AND
FUTURE NATURAL DISASTERS

Timing: Urgent. s47E(d) 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)

s47C & s47E(d)

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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

Barbara Belcher
First Assistant Secretary
Government Division

7 April 2005

Contact: Paul O'Neill s22
Consultation: Defence

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(John Howard)

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DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

Prime Minister (for approval)

Secretary
Mr Lewis
PMO (4)

174 50427

DOCUMENT 4

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

Proposed eligibility criteria and an indication of the groups that would be covered are at Tab A. s47E(d)

The proposed regulations are at TAB C.

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 seeking The Queen's approval.

s22

Andrew Metcalfe
Deputy Secretary

6 April 2005

Contact: Paul O'Neill s22

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

Agreed/Not agreed

Signed/Not signed

This brief was revised.

s22

13/4/05

(John Howard)