



Australian Government

IT'S AN HONOUR

Australia Celebrating Australians

Commendation for Gallantry

The Commendation for Gallantry is awarded to military personnel for acts of gallantry in action considered worthy of recognition.

About the award

Heroic courage by members of a country's armed forces in action or under fire has long been rewarded with a decoration or award.

Australia's highest-ranking military award is the Victoria Cross.

The Gallantry decorations were introduced into the Australian honours system on 15 January 1991 by Letters Patent.

The Commendation for Gallantry ranks third in the Gallantry Decorations:

- Star of Gallantry
- Medal for Gallantry
- Commendation for Gallantry

How it is awarded

The Governor-General makes the award on the recommendation of the Minister for Defence. The Governor-General may also delegate his/her power to make immediate awards to military commanders in the field.

If the same person receives a further Commendation for Gallantry it is recognised by warrant. No additional insignia is received or worn.

The Commendation for Gallantry may be awarded posthumously.

The award is announced on Australia Day (January 26) and the Queen's Birthday (June) each year.

Past recipient story

Able Seaman Justin Brown is one of six Australians (as at May 2005) to be awarded the Commendation for Gallantry. He is recognised for his courage during reconnaissance of an amphibious landing site in East Timor on 21 October 1999.



Medal design

The insignia of the Commendation for Gallantry is a Federation Star superimposed centrally on a gold-plated silver row of flames.

Medal ribbon

The insignia of the Commendation for Gallantry is attached to a plain orange ribbon. The centre of the Federation Star is 19 millimetres from the bottom of the ribbon and 16 millimetres from either edge.

Fast facts

POST NOMINAL:

There are no post-nominals

INTRODUCED INTO THE AUSTRALIAN HONOURS SYSTEM:

1991

More information

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

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE: www.defence.gov.au