



Australian Government

IT'S AN HONOUR

Australia Celebrating Australians

## Iraq Medal

*Our Servicemen and women have been at the forefront of combat fighting in very difficult circumstances and are also making a significant contribution to the rehabilitation and future of Iraq.*

Prime Minister the Hon John Howard MP, 25 April 2004

### About the award

The Iraq Medal recognises Australian Defence Force service in the Iraq region from 18 March 2003.

The Prime Minister, the Hon. John Howard MP, announced the establishment of the Iraq Medal and the Afghanistan Medal on Anzac Day 2004.

This campaign medal honours those Australian Defence Force members who served, and continue to serve, in and around Iraq.

Australian Defence Force deployments to Iraq are also recognised through the award, the Australian Active Service Medal.

The Iraq Medal was formally established by Letters Patent on 30 September 2004.

### How it is awarded

The Governor-General awards the medal on the recommendation of the Chief of the Defence Force.

Australian Defence Force members may qualify through service in particular operations including:

- Operation Falconer, 18 March to 22 July 2003;
- Operation Catalyst, from 16 July 2003;
- Operation Riverbank, from 21 July 2008;
- Operation Kruger, from 1 January 2009.

Eligibility includes a specified period of (aggregated) service or, in the case of Air Force members, a qualifying number of sorties.

### Medal design

The Iraq medal features the Commonwealth Coat of Arms on the front and images of symbolic relevance to the area of operation on the back.



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The reverse of the Iraq Medal is based on a processional lion, which is copied from a relief on the Gateway of the Temple of Ishtar in Babylon. In the Assyrian Empire, the lion was a dominant symbol of power. The lion stands on a narrow plinth, symbolising balance, with the word 'Iraq' inscribed underneath.

### Medal ribbon

The medal ribbon has a central vertical stripe of red, signifying the conflict in Iraq. This is flanked by stripes of purple representing the three arms of the Australian Defence Force. The wide, outer stripes of yellow symbolise Iraq's desert sands.

### Fast facts

#### POST NOMINAL:

There are no post-nominal entitlements

#### INTRODUCED INTO THE AUSTRALIAN HONOURS SYSTEM:

2004

#### NOMINATIONS:

The Chief of Defence puts forward recommendations.

### More information

IT'S AN HONOUR WEBSITE: [www.itsanhonour.gov.au](http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au)