



# **The Operational Service Medal**

*for service in Afghanistan from 11 September 2001  
(Amendments to Cm 5939 of September 2003)*

*Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Defence  
by Command of Her Majesty  
October 2006*

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# THE OPERATIONAL SERVICE MEDAL

*Service in Afghanistan from 11 September 2001*

1. The Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals has had under consideration the need to amend the arrangements for recognition of service on operations within Afghanistan from 11 September 2001, inclusive, to a future date to be decided in due course, with special regard to the hardships and dangers which have accompanied duty there. This was previously covered by the Command Paper on the Operational Service Medal for Operation VERITAS (Cm 5939) and these amendments specifically relate to that paper.
2. Their recommendations have been duly submitted to The Queen, who has graciously agreed to the amendments to the conditions of award of the Operational Service Medal for Service in Afghanistan as described below, and specifically to the retrospective change in title for the medal to the “Operational Service Medal – Afghanistan”. The medal, ribbon and clasp “Afghanistan” remain unchanged.
3. With immediate effect the Operation Service Medal – VERITAS is to be known as the “Operational Service Medal – Afghanistan”. It is to cover all operations in Afghanistan and in direct support of operations in Afghanistan, both past and future, from 11 September 2001 to a date to be determined.
4. In addition to those detailed in Command Paper Cm 5939, personnel eligible for the Operational Service Medal – Afghanistan include:
  - a. United Kingdom personnel deployed with NATO International Security Assistance Force; on Operation TARROCK; or on other operations in Afghanistan (Zone 1 and 2) as determined by Chief of Joint Operations.
  - b. aircrew, regardless of where they are based, who have flown at least 30 sectors in Afghanistan (Zone 1 and 2) at no more than one per day.
  - c. aircrew resident in Zone 2 operating in direct support of Operation LANDMAN to qualify after 14 days.
  - d. personnel on board HMS SCOTT and HMS BEAGLE, when assigned to Operation ORACLE.
  - e. RAF Ground Engineers to qualify under the same criteria as aircrew.
5. Personnel who deploy across a boundary between two sets of qualifying criteria are to be judged against the most favourable criteria.
6. The start date of the Operational Service Medal – Afghanistan is amended to 1 October 2001 for Prince Sultan Air Base (Saudi Arabia), Seeb, Manama and Muharraq (Bahrain).
7. The qualifying period for Thumrait (Oman) is amended to 1 October 2001 to 21 February 2003.



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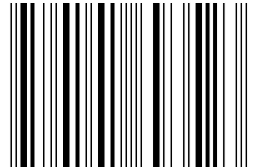
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