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NOT IN SCOPE

161/99 Honours, Decorations and Medals - Extensions to the Qualifying Criteria for the award of the General Service Medal 1962 - Clasp 'Air Operations Iraq' (R)

[NAV SEC 1550/2/4: 27486PY]

1. Her Majesty The Queen has graciously approved amendments to the qualifying criteria for the award of the General Service Medal 1962 with Clasp 'Air Operations Iraq'. These amendments are set out below and should be read in conjunction with the 1997 DCI General:

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2. The additions to qualification for the Clasp 'Air Operations Iraq' will be:

- a. Service of 30 days or more continuous, or 60 days or more aggregated service on the posted strength of units on, or in support of, Air Operations over Iraq detached to Incerlik, Salopi and Zakhu between 16 Jul 91 and 19 Sep 91. Time spent in transit between Incerlik and Salopi/Zakhu is to count towards such service.
- b. Service of 60 days or more continuously, or 90 days or more aggregated service on the posted strength of units on, or in support of, Air Operations over Iraq, as part of Operations BOLTON and COLMAR

or

- c. Six operational air sorties flying in Iraqi airspace as part of Operation BOLTON or as part of the preparations for Op WARDEN between 16 Jul 91 and 19 Sep 91.

NB: Any time spent on the posted strength of units but not physically in theatre (i.e. personnel sent home for reasons such as compassionate, medical (unless due to injury sustained in action), confinement, etc.) does *NOT* count towards qualifying criteria.

Tanker aircrew flying missions in support of Operation BOLTON but who do not fly in Iraqi airspace will be eligible if they have the qualifying service set out at 2a above.

3. a. RN and RFA ships which have served 60+ days in support of Op BOLTON are as follows:

HMS <i>Birmingham</i>	04 Jun 99	to	(On Going)	132 days
HMS <i>Boxer</i>	03 Dec 98	to	02 Feb 99	62 days
RFA <i>Brambleleaf</i>	19 Mar 98	to	18 May 98	61 days
	04 Jun 98	to	24 Sep 98	113days
	11 Oct 98	to	19 Jan 99	100days
	29 Jan 99	to	06 Jun 99	129 days
HMS <i>Coventry</i>	20 Nov 97	to	08 May 98	170 days
HMS <i>Cumberland</i>	03 Oct 98	to	11 Dec 98	70 days
	28 Jan 99	to	12 Apr 99	75 days
RFA <i>Fort Victoria</i>	18 Jan 98	to	02 Apr 98	75 days
HMS <i>Grafton</i>	11 May 98	to	14 Aug 98	96 days
HMS <i>Invincible</i>	30 Jan 99	to	01 Apr 99	62 days
HMS <i>Newcastle</i>	30 Jan 99	to	01 Apr 99	62 days
HMS <i>York</i>	22 Mar 98	to	22 May 98	62 days
	01 Aug 98	to	03 Oct 98	64 days

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- b. The following RN and RFA ships have not served the full 60 days but personnel may qualify if they have served an aggregated 90 days by serving on more than one ship, or the same ship at different times, within the qualifying dates:

RFA Bayleaf	24 Jan 98	to	13 Mar 98	49 days
HMS Boxer	07 Apr 99	to	04 Jun 99	59 days
HMS Exeter	14 Jul 96	to	08 Aug 96	26 days
RFA Fort George	01 Mar 98	to	07 Mar 98	7 days
HMS Grafton	12 Nov 98	to	29 Nov 98	18 days
HMS Illustrious	02 Mar 98	to	13 Apr 98	43 days
HMS Invincible	18 Jan 98	to	03 Mar 98	45 days
HMS Nottingham	18 Jan 98	to	15 Mar 98	57 days
RFA Orangeleaf	07 Jul 99	to	(Ongoing)	33+ days
HMS Somerset	01 Mar 98	to	07 Mar 98	7 days

4. Eligible personnel are:

- a. Regular or Reserve members of the Armed Forces on the attached or posted strength of any Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army or Royal Air Force unit or formation committed to preparation for Air Operations in Northern Iraq between 16 Jul 91 and 19 Sep 91, or committed to Operation BOLTON.
 - b. Loan Service and Exchange Personnel serving with coalition units committed to Operation BOLTON.
 - c. Regular or Reserve members of Commonwealth Forces on the attached or posted strength of units of Operation BOLTON.
 - d. Department for International Development civil advisors.
 - e. United Kingdom based members of the Civil Service serving with Her Majesty's Armed Forces with units of Operation BOLTON.
 - f. Ministry of Defence accredited artists.
 - g. Civilian Members of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and of any other such organisation as may be determined, who served directly with units of the Armed Forces engaged on Operations BOLTON and COLMAR.
5. If qualifying service is brought to an end before the completion of the specified qualifying period on account of death, capture, wounding or other disability due to service, the reduced period of service will be sufficient qualification for the award of the Clasp 'Air Operations Iraq'. The grant of a British Honour, Decoration or Medal of the status of The Queen's Gallantry Medal or above, or a Queen's Commendation

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or Mention in Despatches, for services on operations during the qualifying period, not amounting to that stated above, will also qualify the recipient for the Clasp 'Air Operations Iraq'.

Consideration may be given to the award of the Clasp 'Air Operations Iraq' to personnel who have been engaged in special hazardous operations of comparatively short duration.

6. The award of the General Service Medal 1962 and Clasp Air Operations Iraq' will be made as soon as possible to those who have qualified as a result of these additions. Individuals to whom the General Service Medal 1962 has already been awarded will be granted the Clasp only.

7. Medals and/or Clasps will be issued to qualifying personnel under single Service arrangements. Medals for deceased personnel are to be given over to the next of kin in presentation boxes, they are not to be sent by post.

8. Applications for the Medal and/or Clasp should be made as follows:

- a. *For RN/RNR personnel:* On Form S540 through commanding officers to: RN Medals Office, Room 1068 Centurion Building, Grange Road, Gosport, Hampshire PO13 9XA.
- b. *For RM/RMR personnel:* On Form S540 through commanding officers to: RM Historical Records and Medals, Room 0038, Centurion Building (Address as above).
- c. *NAS personnel:* Applications should be made through the squadron and not the ship in which the squadron was embarked. Applications should be made as in para 8.a above.
- d. *RFA personnel:* As directed by the Personnel Manager RFA, who will arrange issue of these medals/clasps.
- e. *RN Naval Bases and Supply Agency personnel:* Written application should be made to: NBSA PO2, Spur 7, Block C, Ensleigh, Bath BA1 5AB.
- f. *Civilian Personnel:* Written application should be made to: CM(Hons), Room 305, Northumberland House, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BL.

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