

Here is the complete list of medals awarded to New Zealand Defence personnel for service in South Vietnam.

This document and commentary was provided by Pat Duggan formerly of the 161 Battery Royal New Zealand Artillery.



As can be seen we didn't get a hell of a lot of medals for our service in SVN. The medals except the South Vietnamese campaign medal show reverse and obverse sides and the 2 citations you will be very aware of already.

The top left is the New Zealand Operational Service medal

The New Zealand Operational Service Medal (NZOSM) was instituted in 2002 for award to New Zealanders who have served on operations since 3 September 1945. The start date is the day after the surrender ceremony in Tokyo Bay, and is also the day after qualifying service towards medals for Second World War service (including the New Zealand War Service Medal) ended.

The NZOSM provides specific New Zealand recognition for operational service, and is awarded in addition to any New Zealand, Commonwealth or foreign campaign medal. It is awarded once only to an individual, regardless of how many times he or she has deployed on operations.

The New Zealand General Service Medal 1992 (Warlike) (Blue and Orange ribbon)

This medal was instituted in 1992. It was issued in silver to recognise service in warlike operations for which no separate New Zealand or British Commonwealth campaign medal was issued. By the time it was replaced in 2002, four clasps had been issued for warlike operations between 1956 and 1991 in the Suez Canal region, Malaya, Vietnam and Kuwait.

The medal was awarded with a clasp to describe where an individual served. It is worn as a war medal, in order of date of qualification. The New Zealand General Service Medal 1992 has also been issued in bronze for non-warlike operations.

The Vietnam Medal (top right) was instituted in 1968 to recognise New Zealanders who served in the Vietnam War. It was awarded for qualifying periods of 1 day on land, 1 operational sortie by air, 28 days at sea off the coast or 30 days cumulative visits, between 29 May 1964 and 27 January 1973 (the latter date was the date of the signing of the Paris Accords).

New Zealand and Australia jointly developed and instituted the Vietnam Medal. However, there is a separate Royal Warrant for each country. Australian military personnel and some Australian civilians were awarded the Vietnam Medal by the Australian government.

The Vietnam Medal was the first operational service medal for Australian or New Zealand personnel to be designed and produced in Australia. The Vietnam Medal was manufactured by the Royal Australian Mint.

The South Vietnamese Campaign medal

The South Vietnamese Campaign Medal was awarded by the Government of South Vietnam to New Zealand and Australian forces who served for six months in Vietnam between 1964 and 1973. The Sovereign approved the wearing of the South Vietnamese Campaign Medal by eligible New Zealand personnel in 1966.

If you should ever want to find out just where New Zealand has deployed its forces since WW2 then just Google **NZDF Medals Home Page** and all will be revealed.

Kind regards

Pat

Editor's Note: The ribbons at the bottom are the Vietnam Gallantry Cross ribbon on the left and the United States Army Meritorious Unit Commendation on the right.