



Military Brotherhood MMC Inc

SOP 23 – 15 Feb 2016

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 23

CANTWELL AWARD

Club Award for Support to Veterans

General

1. In 2013 the concept of a Veteran Support medallion (Award) for members who dedicate their time to providing support to Veterans was aired. Members who gave their time to supporting, assisting and providing one-on-one help to Veterans should have their efforts recognised by the Club regardless of their level of competency.
2. The concept was assessed by the NATHQ and a Project Officer was nominated to investigate the feasibility of the concept.
3. In 2014 the Project Officer presented a concept of a welfare award (medallion) to the NATHQ Exec.
4. Graphic design work was commenced to bring the award to fruition (Graphic 1).
5. In 2015 a meeting was held with MAJGEN John Cantwell to allow use of his name on the award. Reasoning for this was presented by the Project Officer, in that MAJGEN Cantwell is the most current ADF General who suffers from PTSD as a result of his operational experiences (see his autobiography *Battle Wounds*).
6. As a result of the meeting with MAJGEN Cantwell, the GEN gave his consent, and believed in the award. He was proud to have his name associated with such a worthwhile decoration.
7. The award will hence be called the 'CANTWELL AWARD', issued to members for dedication to Veteran Support.
8. Members of the Military Brotherhood MMC (MBMMC) being considered for the award must have completed two (2) years of consistent (unbroken) service to welfare/pension and advocacy work for Veterans or Ex-Defence members.

Design

9. The design of the Cantwell Award went through a number of iterations and has finally been accepted and is based on our current military awards (ref Graphic 1).
10. The physical nature of the Award will be cast and coloured.
11. The colours are predominantly red on black, as are our Club colours.



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12. The shape is based on current Australian Defence Force awards, being an oval.
13. The words 'CANTWELL AWARD' are upper most, over our logo which is central. On the left side of our logo is the Clubs start date and on the right side of our logo is our motto in Latin being 'Nostrum Est' (meaning, '*The Task is Ours*').
14. Under our logo are the words 'Veterans Support'.
15. There are two pins on the obverse side of the award for attachment to our vest.
16. The size of the award is approximately 40mm wide and approximately 25mm high.



Graphic1 – Cantwell Award



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Service Member and Sierra Squad Member Vest Front (Where applicable for Sierra Squad)

Graphic 2 – Placement of Cantwell Award

Eligibility of Members

17. Eligibility for the award is open to both Service Members and Sierra Squad Members who have completed a minimum of the Welfare Officer Course conducted by TIPS, DVA (re Annex A, Eligibility Criteria).
18. Sub Branch Executives - with final confirmation from a vote of their membership (both Service and Sierra Squad together) - can nominate a Service or Sierra Squad Member for the award, based on the nominated member fulfilling the criteria as outlined in Annex A.

Nomination Process

19. Each Sub Branch Executive, through any General Meeting with all their Sub Branch members, can vote for the nomination of a member and must complete the Nomination Form at Annex A and B and have it presented to NATHQ by COB of February each year.



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20. Sub Branch Executives, through a General Meeting of their members can present nominations each year. All nominations will be consolidated by NATHQ.
21. Lone riders of the MBMMC are eligible to present their nomination to the NATHQ as per Annex A and hence Annex B.
22. Nominations must be submitted using the form at Annex B, after assessment of each nominee's eligibility using Annex A.

Criteria

23. Criteria for the CANTWELL AWARD includes:
 - a) That the member has completed a Welfare Officers Course within TIPS training, being sponsored by DVA; and/or
 - b) That the member has completed a Pension Officers Course within TIPS training, being sponsored by DVA; and/or
 - c) That the member has completed a Advocacy Officers Course (any level) within TIPS training, being sponsored by DVA; and
 - d) The member has been consistent as a Welfare, Pension or Advocate Officer for a minimum of two (2) years before the recommendation for the Award by the Sub Branch membership.
24. That the Welfare, Pension or Advocate Officer has operated in a consistent manner within a Sub Branch (or numerous Sub Branches) supporting Ex-Defence and/or Veterans for a period of two (2) years before the recommendation for the Award.

Presentation of the Cantwell Award

25. Any Award, authorised for presentation by a Sub Branch will be presented each year at the Sub Branch gathering, being their Christmas breakup for the year.
26. If a member, being presented with the Award cannot attend the appropriate Sub Branch Christmas breakup, the relevant Sub Branch can award the member the award at their next General Meeting.

Wearing of the Award

27. The Award is to be worn on the right hand side of the vest, immediately above the Club AKA, and under any relative's ribbons (ref Graphic 2).



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28. The Award is to be secured in such a way that it cannot become unattached from the vest.
29. The Award must be centralised over the AKA and no more than 10 mm above the AKA.

Disputes

30. Any dispute for presentation of the CANTWELL AWARD must be addressed through the Sub Branch Sergeant Major (SSM) to the Club Sergeant Major (CSM).

Leave of Absence/Leave for Personal Reasons/Retirement as a Welfare or Pension/Advocacy Officer

31. Any member (either Service or Sierra Squad) who has been awarded a CANTWELL AWARD may at a future stage, after being presented the Award, stand down on leave of absence or retirement from their duties while retaining their award.
32. Any Welfare/Pension/Advocacy Officer who has taken leave of absence or retirement may return to the Club as their personal circumstances dictate.

Note: This situation is recognised due to the 'burn out' syndrome of Welfare/Pension Officers as already documented by DVA and other Ex Service Organisations. No detriment to the member should be applied.

Conduct Contrary to Club Provisions

33. Any member, having been awarded the CANTWELL AWARD and found to have acted contrary to the Club Constitution or SOPs may have their award stripped after due process by the Sub Branch Executive, but only after referencing the circumstances to NATHQ.
34. NATHQ will only act on withdrawing the award after full consultation with the Sub Branch Executive and the member in dispute.



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ANNEX A TO

SOP 23 DATED 15 FEB 16

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Nomination of the Cantwell Award

SUB BRANCH _____

Ser	Criteria	Other	YES	NO
1	Has the member completed a Welfare or Pension Officer or Advocacy Course under TIPS, DVA?	Proof being TIPS Training		
2	Has the member completed a minimum of 12 months service to the Club? (Period includes 6 months nom period for Service Members and three months nom period for Sierra Squad members)			
3	Has the member demonstrated a 'leaning' towards welfare work, and has the member shown commitment towards welfare work?	Proof being the completion of courses		
4	Has the member worked diligently as a Welfare/Pension/Advocacy Officer towards helping Veterans, and if so, has the member maintained a Diary of his/her work? (refer to Appendix 1).	Proof being the maintenance of a Diary for Welfare work		
5	Does the member network with other members in the Sub Branch, or other Sub Branches with regard to Veteran support?	Proof being has the member touched base with other Sub Branches in his locale		



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APPENDIX 1 TO

ANNEX A

WELFARE SUPPORT DIARY

(Example only)

Date	Time	Occurrence	Veteran Details	Comments



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ANNEX B TO

SOP 23 DATED 15 FEB 16

NOMINATION FOR CANTWELL AWARD

Submitted by Sub Branch: _____

Ser	Nominate Full Name	Club AKA	Criteria Fulfilled Attach Annex A for each nominee
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

Nomination(s) are authorised by:

Sub Branch President:	
Sub Branch Secretary:	
Sub Branch SM:	
Dated:	

Forwarded to NATHQ dated: _____