

Friday, 24 April 2009

### **NEW MEDAL FOR KOREAN WAR VETERANS**

Minister for Veterans Affairs Michael Atkinson has called for Korean War veterans to nominate themselves or fellow soldiers for the newly created Australian General Service Medal for Korea (AGSM).

Her Majesty The Queen has given her in-principle approval to the award of the AGSM, meaning former Defence Force personnel who completed 30 days in South Korea during the post-Armistice period from 28 July 1953 to 19 April 1956 are now eligible for the award.

The 30-day eligibility criterion for the AGSM is consistent with the recommendations of the Post-Armistice Korean Service Review Report, released in December 2005.

Mr Atkinson says he commends the Commonwealth Government for creating this award to further recognise the efforts of Korean War Veterans.

“The Korean War is often referred to as the Forgotten War but this stigma is misleading when you realise how many Australians fought and made the ultimate sacrifice,” Mr Atkinson says.

“Until now, Korean veterans could only wear the UN Medal for Korea, the Korea Medal and the Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75.”

A total of 17,164 Australians served in the Korean conflict of whom 339 were killed.

Mr Atkinson says the AGSM still needs to be formally established and a medal design needs to be finalised but expects it to begin being issued in early 2010.

Applications are now being accepted from former Defence Force personnel who served in South Korea during the above-mentioned period. However, those persons who have already made application for the Returned from Active Service need not reapply. Applications should be made to the following address:

Directorate of Honours and Awards  
T-1-49  
Department of Defence  
CANBERRA ACT 2600