

Application for the New Zealand Special Service Medal (Erebus)

Personal Details

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Title | Family name | Given names | |
| Are you a NZ citizen: Yes / No | | Citizenship (if not NZ): | |
| Home phone number | Work phone number | Mobile phone number | |
| Postal address | | | Postcode |
| E-mail address: | | | |

Details of Service related to the Erebus Plane Crash of 28 November 1979

| Location (delete not applicable) | Dates served | Service / Organisation served with (e.g. NZ Police, US Navy, NZ Antarctic Research Programme) |
|---|--------------|--|
| The crash site, Mount Erebus. Supply or support flights to and from the crash site on Mount Erebus. Williams Field, McMurdo Station. Mortuary, Auckland University School of Medicine, Auckland. | | Service number (if applicable): |

| |
|--|
| Nature or work and specific tasks performed while serving in the above location(s) |
| |

Number of pages of Proof of Service material enclosed with this application: _____

(See the "Instructions for completion" for information on the types of Proof of Service required by HQNZDF to process this application).

Declaration

| | |
|--|---------------|
| I declare that the information provided above is true and correct. | |
| _____ Signature of Applicant | _____ Date |

Application for the New Zealand Special Service Medal (Erebus)

Instructions for completion

About the New Zealand Special Service Medal (Erebus)

The New Zealand Special Service Medal, (NZSSM), (Erebus) is awarded to those New Zealanders, and citizens of the United States of America and other countries, who were involved with the extremely difficult and very unpleasant, hazardous, and extreme circumstances associated with the body recovery, crash investigation and victim identification phases of Operation Overdue. Operation Overdue was mounted by the New Zealand Police following the crash of Air New Zealand DC-10-30 ZK-NZP Flight TE901 on the north slope of Mount Erebus, Ross Island, Antarctica on 28 November 1979, with the loss of all 257 passengers and crew.

The recovery and investigation phase of Operation Overdue lasted in Antarctica from 29 November 1979 to 12 December 1979. The identification phase of the operation at the mortuary of the Auckland University School of Medicine lasted from 6 December 1979 to 12 February 1980.

Service at one or more of the following locations will qualify persons for the award of the NZSSM (Erebus):

- i) the crash site, Mount Erebus;
- ii) on supply or support flights to and from the crash site;
- iii) at Williams Field, McMurdo Station; or
- iv) the Mortuary, Auckland University School of Medicine, Auckland.

Service being recognised

The medal recognises the extremely difficult and very unpleasant, hazardous, and extreme circumstances associated with service with Operation Overdue involving—

(a) the following physical risks:

- (i) the debris, wreckage debris, and contaminated wreckage trail from the Erebus crash at the Erebus crash site;
- (ii) the extreme climatic conditions at the crash site;
- (iii) the hazardous physical location of, and conditions at, the crash site;

(b) the following psychological risks:

- (i) body recovery;
- (ii) victim identification;
- (iii) the scale of the tragedy of the Erebus crash;
- (iv) the fact that some of the victims of the Erebus crash were personally known to those providing services in the aftermath of the crash.

Persons eligible for the medal

The following persons can be awarded the NZSSM (Erebus):

- (a) all persons who were involved, at any time between 29 November 1979 and 12 December 1979,
 - (i) at the crash site with body recovery work; or
 - (ii) at the crash site with the provision of support for body recovery work; or
 - (iii) supply or support flights to and from the crash site for body recovery purposes; or
 - (iv) at Williams Field at McMurdo Station with the processing or packing of victims' remains and personal effects from the Erebus crash for transportation to New Zealand;

- (b) all persons who were involved, at any time between 6 December 1979 and 12 February 1980, at the mortuary located at the Auckland University School of Medicine, with the identification of bodies from the Erebus crash in any of the following capacities:
 - (i) pathology;
 - (ii) dental;
 - (iii) embalming;
 - (iv) morticians;
 - (v) as part of the Police victim identification team;

- (c) all persons who were involved, at any time between 29 November 1979 and 12 December 1979, at the crash site with investigation work as to the cause of the Erebus crash.

Note: Sub-clauses (a) and (c), above, apply both to New Zealanders, and citizens of the United States of America and other countries

Proof of service

Proof of service in one of the locations stated above will be required before the NZSSM (Erebus) can be issued. The proof of service must state the type of service performed and its duration, and may be one or more of the following:

- (a) a statement signed by the chief executive of the organisation that controlled or directed the person;
- (b) a statutory declaration by the person eligible for the medal, their employer, or a witness to the person's services;
- (c) other evidence as may be required by the Chief of Defence Force, or an officer of the New Zealand Defence Force authorised by the Chief of Defence Force.

Instructions on how to complete this form

- Please use BLOCK letters only.
- Please complete the entire form, and provide details of the service in one or more of the specified location(s).
- Copies of this form may be downloaded from the Breaking News page of the New Zealand Defence Force medals website:
<http://medals.nzdf.mil.nz/news>

Please forward completed forms to the following address:

Assistant Director Medals Policy
Personnel Branch
Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force
Private Bag
Wellington
NEW ZEALAND

Any questions can be directed by e-mail to: medals.admp@nzdf.mil.nz