



# Australian Government

---

## Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal

### **Murray and the Department of Defence [2026] DHAAT 8 (25 May 2026)**

**File Number(s)** 2025/042

**Re** Mr Greig Munro Murray  
Applicant

**And** The Department of Defence  
Respondent

**Tribunal** Mr Stephen Skehill (Presiding Member)  
Rear Admiral Allan du Toit AM RAN (Retd)

**Hearing Date** 4 May 2026

**Attendances** Mr Greig Murray  
Applicant

Mrs Allison Augustine,  
Director, Defence Honours and Awards,  
Department of Defence

#### **DECISION**

On 25 May 2026, the Tribunal decided to affirm the decision of Defence that Mr Greig Murray should not be recommended for the Australian Operational Service Medal (Indo-Pacific) in recognition of his service on Operation AUGURY, albeit for reasons different to those stated by Defence in advising that decision.

## **CATCHWORDS**

*DEFENCE AWARD – Australian Operational Service Medal (Indo-Pacific) – eligibility criteria – declared operation – Operation AUGURY – Governor-General Declaration – 30 day qualifying service requirement*

## **LEGISLATION**

*Defence Act 1903 – Part VIIIIC – Sections 110T, 110V(1), 110VB(2), 110VB(6)*

*Defence Regulation 2016, Regulation 36*

*Australian Operational Service Medal Regulation 2012, Commonwealth of Australia Gazette S67, Letter Patent and Regulation, dated 6 June 2012*

*Australian Operational Service Medal Regulation 2012, Amendment 2015, Commonwealth of Australia Gazette G00827, dated 1 June 2015*

*Australian Operational Service Medal Regulation 2012 Amendment to Letters Patent 2020, Commonwealth of Australia Gazette G00629, dated 5 August 2020*

*Commonwealth of Australia Gazette G00051 of 31 January 2025, Australian Operational Service Medal (Indo-Pacific) Instrument 2024, dated 12 January 2025*

## **Introduction**

1. The Applicant, Mr Greig Munro Murray, seeks review of a decision dated 19 December 2025 of the Department of Defence to refuse to recommend him for the Australian Operational Service Medal (Indo-Pacific) in recognition of his service on Operation AUGURY.

## **Decision under review**

2. On 25 February 2025, Mr Murray wrote to the Directorate of Honours and Awards in Defence seeking the award of the Australian Operational Service Medal (Indo-Pacific) for his service on Operation AUGURY in 2018.

3. Defence responded by letter on 19 December 2025 advising Mr Murray that as he had only 26 days of qualifying service while force assigned to Operation AUGURY, he had not met the requirement of 30 days qualifying service as specified in the eligibility criteria and that he could not be recommended the award.<sup>1</sup>

4. On 19 December 2025, Mr Murray made application to the Tribunal seeking review of the Defence decision.

## **Tribunal jurisdiction**

5. Pursuant to s110VB(2) of the *Defence Act 1903* the Tribunal has jurisdiction to review a reviewable decision if an application is properly made to the Tribunal. The term reviewable decision is defined in s110V(1) and includes a decision made by a person within the Department of Defence to refuse to recommend a person for a defence award in response to an application.

6. Regulation 36 of the *Defence Regulation 2016* lists the defence awards that may be the subject of a reviewable decision. Included in the defence awards listed in Regulation 36 is the Australian Operational Service Medal. Therefore, the Tribunal has jurisdiction to review decisions in relation to this award.

## **Mr Murray's service**

7. Mr Murray enlisted in the Permanent Naval Force Royal Australian Navy on 19 June 2000 on an open-ended enlistment period, and was discharged on 4 September 2024 medically unfit for service, having served for a period of 24 years, 2 months and 17 days.

8. Mr Murray has been issued the following awards for his service with the Royal Australian Navy:

- a. Australian Active Service Medal with Clasps 'ICAT' and IRAQ 03';
- b. Afghanistan Medal;
- c. Iraq Medal;
- d. Australian Operational Service Medal – Border Protection;
- e. Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal with Clasp 'INDIAN OCEAN';
- f. Defence Long Service Medal with First Clasp

---

<sup>1</sup> Letter, Defence to Mr Murray, dated 25 July 2025.

- g. Australian Defence Medal;
- h. Philippines Military Merit Medal;<sup>2</sup>
- i. Meritorious Unit Citation - HMAS *KANIMBLA* - Iraq 2003 (MUC13);
- j. Commanding Officer Commendation (COC) 20/06/2008; 2<sup>nd</sup> COC 02/06/2011; 3<sup>rd</sup> COC 28/05/2015;
- k. H. A. Dewsberry Memorial Shield 12/12/2009; and
- l. Gold Service Medallion 04/09/2024.<sup>3</sup>

## Operation AUGURY

9. Operation AUGURY is the Australian Defence Force framework in support of efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremist organisations around the world. Specific tasks under Operation AUGURY are generally not publicly disclosed for operational security reasons.<sup>4</sup>

## The Australian Operational Service Medal

10. The Australian Operational Service Medal was created by Letters Patent, dated 22 May 2012 and published in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette S67* of 6 June 2012.<sup>5</sup>

11. The *Australian Operational Service Medal Regulation* was amended in 2015 (as per *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette G00827*)<sup>6</sup>, and was then further amended in 2020 (as per *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette G00629* dated 5 August 2020).<sup>7</sup>

12. The updated Regulation states:

### **3 Declared operation**

(1) *The Governor-General may declare, in writing, on the recommendation of the Minister, that an operation is a declared operation.*

(2) *In making a recommendation to the Governor-General, the Minister must have regard to the recommendation of the Chief of the Defence Force.*

(3) *The Governor-General must not make a declaration about an operation unless:*

(a) *The operation is, or was, carried out in conditions that are, or were, hazardous; and*

(b) *The operation is not an operation for which recognition for an award (other than an award under this regulation) already exists; and*

(c) *The operation meets the conditions (if any) determined, in writing, by the Governor-General.*

<sup>2</sup> Defence report dated 5 February 2026.

<sup>3</sup> ADO Service record, Murray, Chief Petty Officer, Grieg Munro 8116380 included with Application to Tribunal.

<sup>4</sup> Website, Operation Augury, Department of Defence, accessed 4 February 2026.

<sup>5</sup> *Australian Operational Service Medal Regulation 2012, Commonwealth of Australia Gazette S67, Letters Patent and Regulations*, dated 6 June 2012.

<sup>6</sup> *Australian Operational Service Medal Regulation 2012, Amendment 2015, Commonwealth of Australia Gazette G00827.*

<sup>7</sup> *Australian Operational Service Medal Regulations 2012 Amendment to Letters Patent 2020, Commonwealth of Australia Gazette G00629*, dated 5 August 2020.

(3A) *Without limiting subsection (1), the Chief of the Defence Force may declare, in writing, on the recommendation of the Commander Joint Operations, that a special operation is a declared operation.*

(3B) *The Chief of the Defence Force must not make a declaration about a special operation unless:*

- (a) *The operation is, or was, carried out in conditions that are, or were, hazardous; and*
- (b) *The operation is not an operation for which recognition for an award (other than an award under this regulation) already exists; and*
- (c) *The operation meets the conditions (if any) determined, in writing, by the Chief of the Defence Force.*

(3C) *Without limiting subsection (1), the Chief of the Defence Force may declare, in writing, on the recommendation of the Commander Joint Operations or the Special Operations Commander Australia, that a counter terrorism activity or a special recovery activity is a declared operation.*

(3D) *The Chief of the Defence Force must not make a declaration about a counter terrorism activity or a special recovery activity unless all of the following apply.*

- (a) *The activity is, or was, carried out in hazardous conditions.*
- (b) *The activity is not an activity for which recognition for an award (other than an award under this regulation) already exists.*
- (c) *The activity meets the conditions (if any) determined, in writing, by the Chief of the Defence Force.*

(4) *A declaration under this section must include the following matters:*

- (a) *the name by which the operation is known or a description of the operation; and*
- (b) *the area in which the operation occurs or occurred; and*
- (c) *either:*
  - (i) *the dates or period during which the operation occurred*  
*or*
  - (ii) *if the operation is continuing – the date on which the operation commenced.*

#### **4 Eligible service**

(1) *The Governor-General may declare, in writing, on the recommendation of the Minister, that service is:*

- (a) *Eligible service; or*
- (b) *Eligible service that is an additional period of qualifying service for the purposes of paragraph 6(2) (c).*

(2) *In making a recommendation to the Governor-General, the Minister must have regard to the recommendation of the Chief of the Defence Force.*

(3) *The Governor-General must not make a declaration about service under subsection (1) unless the eligible service is given as part of, and with the period*

*of, a declared operation.*

*(3A) Eligible service declared under subsection (1) must meet the conditions (if any) determined, in writing, by the Governor-General.*

*(4) Without limiting subsection (1), the Chief of the Defence Force may declare, in writing, on the recommendation of the Commander Joint Operations, that service is:*

- (a) Eligible service; or*
- (b) Eligible service that is an additional period of qualifying service for the purposes of paragraph 6(2)(c).*

*(5) The Chief of the Defence Force must not make a declaration about service unless:*

- (a) The service is given in the operational area, and within the period, of a special operation, counter terrorism activity or special recovery activity that is a declared operation; and*
- (b) The service meets the conditions (if any) determined, in writing, by the Chief of the Defence Force*

### **The Australian Operational Service Medal (Indo-Pacific)**

13. The eligibility criteria for awarding the Australian Operational Service Medal (Indo-Pacific) are contained in the Governor-General's declaration dated 12 January 2025 set out in the *Australian Operational Service Medal (Indo-Pacific) Instrument 2024*, published in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette G00051* dated 31 January 2025.<sup>8</sup>

14. The criteria in the Instrument relevant to Mr Murray's application are as follows:

#### **5 Declared Operation**

*For subsection 3(1) of the Regulations, for the Australian Operational Service Medal (Indo-Pacific) the following operations, comprising the specified areas and dates, are declared operations:*

*[...]*

- (d) Operation AUGURY (Philippines) that commenced on 22 June 2017 and ended on 1 December 2019 within the area comprising the land, territorial waters, and superjacent airspace of the Philippines.*

#### **6 Eligible service**

*(1) For paragraph 4(1)(a) of the Regulations, service is eligible service if:*

- (a) The service is given by an ADF member or an allied foreign Defence Force member on deployment during the period of the declared operations;*
- (b) The service occurs for 30 days during one or more deployment, whether or not the service continues throughout the whole day and*

---

<sup>8</sup> *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette G00051* dated 31 January 2025, *Australian Operational Service Medal (Indo-Pacific) Instrument 2024*, dated 12 January 2025.

*whether or not the 30 days are continuous; and*

*(c) The service is considered to be hazardous under paragraph 3(3)(a) of the Australian Operational Service Medal Regulation.*

*(2) If an ADF member or an allied foreign Defence Force member gave service of a kind mentioned in paragraph (1)(a) of this section, but did not satisfy paragraph (1)(b) of this section because the member died or was evacuated due to service-related injury, illness or disability, the service is taken to have occurred for 30 days during the deployment.*

## **Mr Murray's application to Defence**

15. On 15 October 2025, Mr Murray submitted an online application to Defence for an assessment of his eligibility for the Australian Operational Service Medal (Indo Pacific).<sup>9</sup>

### **The Defence refusal**

16. On 19 December 2025, Defence wrote to Mr Murray advising he was not eligible for the Australian Operational Service Medal (Indo Pacific) on the basis that he did not render sufficient qualifying service.<sup>10</sup> Defence stated:

*The required 30 days on a declared Indo-Pacific operation has not been met, subsequently I am not able to make a recommendation for the Australian Operational Service Medal (Indo Pacific).*

17. Defence stated that Mr Murray's service record confirmed his overseas service for Operation AUGURY and that he had been within the territorial waters of the Philippines during the period 12 March to 6 April 2018, a total of 26 days.<sup>11</sup>

## **Mr Murray's application to the Tribunal**

18. In his application to the Tribunal, Mr Murray submitted a copy of his electronic service record summary which he relied on to state that he was force assigned to Operation AUGURY from 4 March 2018, when HMAS *Broome* deployed from Darwin. He went on to state that he was within the specified area for 26 days and then left the area on 6 April 2018. Mr Murray submitted that *from the day deployed until leaving the specified area was 34 days, which is more than the 30 day eligibility for the award...*<sup>12</sup>

---

<sup>9</sup> Defence report.

<sup>10</sup> Application to Tribunal Mr Greig Murray, 19 December 2025.

<sup>11</sup> Defence report.

<sup>12</sup> Application to the Tribunal.

## The Defence report

19. In its report, Defence responded to Mr Murray's statement provided with his Application for Review to the Tribunal that:

*As you will be able to see on my ADO Service Record I was force assigned to OP Augury from 04MAR2018, when I deployed onboard HMAS Broome, then we were within the specified area for 26 days and left the area on 06/04/2018. From the day deployed until leaving the specified area was 34 days, which is more than the 30 day eligibility for the award as the criteria identified above as we were deployed OP Augury for that period.*

20. Defence acknowledged that Mr Murray's Operation Log on PMKeyS showed he was force assigned to the prescribed operation prior to entering the operational area. However, Defence argued that for medallic recognition under *Australian Operational Service Medal (Indo-Pacific) Instrument 2024*,<sup>13</sup> the only qualifying period was time within the prescribed area comprising the land, territorial waters, and superjacent airspace of the Philippines. Defence submitted that Mr Murray was deployed on Operation AUGURY and within the prescribed area only from 12 March 2018 to 06 April 2018 and that the days used to travel to and from the specified operational area are not qualifying service for the AOSM (Indo-Pacific). Defence therefore recommended that the decision to not recommend Mr Murray for the Australian Operational Service Medal (Indo-Pacific) should be affirmed.

## Mr Murray's comments on the Defence report

21. On 11 February, Mr Murray was provided with a copy of the Defence report for his review and comment. On 18 March 2026, Mr Murray provided his comments. Mr Murray stated that *the definition for eligibility required me to be on a declared Indo-Pacific Operation for 30 days*. Mr Murray referred to page 19 of his ADO Service Record<sup>14</sup> (which he had attached to his email) and said *I was on a declared Operation departing Darwin on 4 March 2018 – OP AUGURY, which to me and many of my crew meant that we were force assigned to that Operation. We entered Philippine waters 12 March 2018 thru 6 April 2018, totalling 34 days force assigned to Op Augury with 26 days within Philippine waters conducting counter terrorist operations against Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)*.<sup>15</sup>

22. Mr Murray further stated *I believed the deployed 34 days force assigned to OP Augury was in accordance with the Australian Operational Service Medal (Indo-Pacific) Instrument 2024. - ... In accordance with the above Instrument, section 6, paragraph (1), defines service as eligible if:*

- a) The service was given by an ADF member or an allied foreign Defence Force member on deployment during the period of the declared operations;*
- b) The service occurs for 30 days during one or more deployments, whether or not the service continues throughout the whole day and whether or not the 30 days are continuous.*

---

<sup>13</sup> Defence report.

<sup>14</sup> Murray, Greig Munro, ADO Service Record dated 17 August 2023.

<sup>15</sup> Email Murray to Tribunal, dated 18 March 2026.

## Tribunal hearing

23. The Tribunal hearing was held via videoconferencing on Monday 4 May 2026.

## Tribunal analysis

24. In its decision of 19 December 2025 Defence advised Mr Murray as follows:

*section 6, paragraph (1) [of the Australian Operational Service Medal (Indo-Pacific) Instrument 2024] defines service as eligible if:*

*a) the service is given by an ADF member or an allied foreign Defence Force member on deployment during the period of the declared operations;*

*b) the service occurs for 30 days during one or more deployments, whether or not the service continues throughout the whole day and whether or not the 30 days are continuous.*

*An examination of your Operation Log indicates that you were deployed on the following declared operation within the specified areas (WSA) for the following dates:*

- *Operation AUGURY-C: WSA OSEAS 12/03/2018 to 06/04/2018*

*Based on all information available to us, you have 26 days of qualifying service towards the AOSM-IP while force assigned to Operation AUGURY-C.*

25. It was entirely reasonable for Mr Murray to assume that Defence would have correctly stated the eligibility criteria for the Australian Operational Service Medal (Indo-Pacific) which he was seeking.

26. Given that Defence had stated that the eligibility criteria required that service be *on deployment* on the declared operation, it was also entirely reasonable for Mr Murray to challenge the Defence decision which had been advised to him in the terms quoted above. His service record showed that:

- a) he was force assigned to Operation AUGURY on 16 February 2018;
- b) his expected deployment date was 5 March 2018;
- c) his actual deployment and effective force assignment date was 4 March 2018; and
- d) he was within the area specified in the instrument during the period 12 March to 6 April 2018.

27. Moreover, he was correct in claiming that his deployment period included the days spent sailing between Australia and the specified area. The *ADF Glossary* defines 'deployment' to mean 'the movement of forces into and out of an operational area'. It does not confine deployment to the period of presence within an operational area.

28. There was nothing in the provisions referred to by Defence that stated or could be reasonably inferred as requiring that eligible service had to be within the area specified in the *Australian Operational Service Medal (Indo-Pacific) Instrument 2024* as asserted in the Defence decision.

29. Accordingly, if Defence had correctly stated the eligibility criteria, the Tribunal would have found that Mr Murray qualified for the Australian Operational Service Medal (Indo Pacific) because his period of deployment on Operation Augury was in excess of 30 days.

30. Unfortunately, however, Defence had not correctly stated the eligibility criteria.

31. Section 6 of the *Australian Operational Service Medal (Indo-Pacific) Instrument 2024* is in the following terms:

(1) For paragraph 4(1)(a) of the Regulation, service is eligible service if:

- (a) the service is given by an ADF member or an allied foreign Defence Force member on deployment during the period of the declared operations;

Note: Service for an ADF member includes service undertaken while on an approved third-country deployment that has a corresponding declared operation.

- (b) the service occurs for 30 days during one or more deployment, whether or not the service continues throughout the whole day and whether or not the 30 days are continuous; and
- (c) the service is considered to be hazardous under paragraph 3(3)(a) of the Australian Operational Service Medal Regulation.

32. The Defence decision omitted paragraph (c), notwithstanding that that paragraph is of vital relevance and importance.

33. Not only must eligible service be on deployment and of at least 30 days' duration, but it must also be hazardous under paragraph 3(3)(a) of the *Australian Operational Service Regulation*. That provision constrains the Governor-General to declaring an operation for the purposes of Australian Operational Service Medal eligibility to an operation that is 'carried out in conditions that are hazardous'. Under the *Australian Operational Service Medal (Indo-Pacific) Instrument 2024*, the Operation AUGURY service that is declared on the basis of being hazardous is that carried out *within the area comprising the land, territorial waters, and superjacent airspace of the Philippines*.

34. Accordingly, notwithstanding being force assigned to the declared operation, the time spent by Mr Murray in sailing between Australia and the territorial waters of the Philippines is not eligible service and cannot be counted towards eligibility for the Australian Operational Service Medal (Indo Pacific) even though it was part of his deployment on Operation AUGURY. At the hearing, Mr Murray described the activities undertaken during the voyage to the Philippines and acknowledged that, even though they were clearly connected to and undertaken in preparation for service to be provided within the territorial waters of the Philippines, they were not part of Operation AUGURY in the terms in which it was declared in accordance with paragraph 3(3)(a) of the Regulation.

35. To her credit, Mrs Augustine who appeared for Defence volunteered in the opening phase of the hearing that the reasons provided to Mr Murray in support of the Defence decision were deficient, and extended to Mr Murray an apology for that.

### **Tribunal decision**

36. For the above reasons, the Tribunal was bound to affirm the decision of Defence that Mr Murray should not be recommended for the Australian Operational Service Medal (Indo-Pacific) in recognition of his service on Operation AUGURY, albeit for reasons different to those stated by Defence in advising that decision.