
**ROYAL BAHAMAS DEFENCE FORCE (AWARD OF
DECORATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1995**

S.I. 74/1995

(SECTION 203)

[Commencement 21st September, 1995]

- Citation. **1.** These regulations may be cited as the Royal Bahamas Defence Force (Award of Decorations) Regulations, 1995.
- Interpretation. **2.** In these regulations—
 “decoration” includes medal, ribbon and medal ribbon;
 “member of the Defence Force” means a member of the regular Force or the Reserve and includes any officer or marine attached or seconded to the Defence Force;
 “regular Force” means the body of officers and marines established under paragraph (a) of section 3 of the Defence Act.
- Ch. 211.
- Decorations. **3.** (1) Subject to regulations 4 to 10, the Governor-General, acting on the recommendation of the Minister after the minister has consulted with the Commander, may award any of the following decorations to a member of the Defence Force—
 (a) Royal Bahamas Defence Force Cross;
 (b) Royal Bahamas Defence Force Gallantry;
 (c) Royal Bahamas Defence Force Distinguished Service;
 (d) Royal Bahamas Defence Force Meritorious Service;
 (e) Royal Bahamas Defence Force Long Service and Good Conduct;
 (f) Royal Bahamas Defence Force Traumatic Service,
 (g) Royal Bahamas Defence Force Overseas campaign.
- (2) The design and form of the decorations specified in paragraph (1) shall be as respectively described in the Schedule.
- Schedule.

(3) Any decoration specified in paragraph (1) may be reproduced as a miniature and—

- (a) in the case of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force Cross, the medal shall not exceed twenty millimetres at its widest point;
- (b) in the case of a decoration other than the Royal Bahamas Defence Force Cross, the medal shall not exceed twenty millimetres in diameter;
- (c) in the case of a ribbon, shall not exceed sixteen millimetres in width and thirty-three millimetres in length; and
- (d) unless awarded posthumously, shall be worn, on official occasions only, by the person to whom the decoration is awarded.

4. The Royal Bahamas Defence Force Cross decoration may be awarded to a member of the Defence Force who distinguishes himself from other members by performing an act of outstanding heroism in the presence of great danger or at great personal risk—

Royal Bahamas
Defence Force
Cross decoration.

- (a) while engaged in an action against an enemy of The Bahamas or any hostile force;
- (b) while engaged in a military conflict operation involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or
- (c) while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which The Bahamas is not a belligerent party.

5. The Royal Bahamas Defence Force Gallantry decoration may be awarded to a member of the Defence Force who performs an act of gallantry above the standard expected of him in circumstances of extreme danger which do not warrant the awarding of a Royal Bahamas Defence Force Cross decoration but which distinguish him from other members.

Royal Bahamas
Defence Force
Gallantry
decoration.

6. The Royal Bahamas Defence Force Distinguished Service decoration may be awarded to a member of the Defence Force who contributes materially to the success of a major command, operation or project, and distinguishes himself by exceptional and meritorious service to The Bahamas.

Royal Bahamas
Defence Force
Distinguished
Service
decoration.

Royal Bahamas
Defence Force
Meritorious
Service
decoration.

7. The Royal Bahamas Defence Force Meritorious Service decoration may be awarded to any member of the Defence Force who distinguishes himself by outstanding meritorious achievement or service to The Bahamas or by prolonged service marked by exceptional ability, merit and conduct.

Royal Bahamas
Defence Force
Long Service and
Good Conduct
decoration.

8. (1) The Royal Bahamas Defence Force Long Service and Good Conduct decoration may be awarded to any member of the Defence Force who has completed eighteen years of continuous service and, in the case of a marine who has for those years been awarded a conduct assessment of “Very Good” as laid down in the Defence Force Instructions.

(2) A clasp may be awarded to the recipient of decoration specified in paragraph (1) on his completion of twenty-five years of continuous service, and another clasp may be awarded to him on his completion of thirty years of continuous service, if for the respective periods the recipient was awarded a conduct assessment of “Very Good” as laid down in the Defence Force Instructions.

Royal Bahamas
Defence Force
Traumatic
decoration.

9. The Royal Bahamas Defence Force Traumatic Service decoration may be awarded, whether posthumously or otherwise, to any member of the Defence Force who, while serving in any capacity with the Force, has been killed or wounded—

- (a) in any action against any enemy of The Bahamas;
- (b) in any action against an opposing armed force of a foreign country in which the Defence Force is or has been engaged;
- (c) engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which The Bahamas is not a belligerent party;
- (d) as a result of any act of any such enemy or opposing armed force;
- (e) as a result of an act of any hostile foreign force;
- (f) as an indirect result of an enemy act, such as by injuries resulting from abandoning a ship sunk by enemy or hostile fire or by any other act of the enemy; or
- (g) as a result of maltreatment inflicted by captors while a prisoner of war.

10. The Defence Force Overseas Campaign decoration may be awarded to any member of the Defence Force who has served in a campaign outside of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas for at least thirty days for an aggregate period of one year. The assignment to countries outside The Bahamas for instructions, training or exercises will not justify the award of this decoration.

Royal Bahamas
Defence Force
Overseas
Campaign
Decoration.

11. An accumulation of minor acts of heroism does not justify the award of any decoration specified in paragraph (1) of regulation 3.

Minor acts of
heroism.

12. (1) Without prejudice to regulations 3 to 10, the Minister after consultation with the Commander may award the Royal Bahamas Defence Force Faithful Service decoration to any member of the Reserve who has completed fifteen years of voluntary service in the Reserve and who has performed that service faithfully.

Royal Bahamas
Defence Force
Faithful Service
decoration.

(2) In paragraph (1) , no service as a full time member of the permanent staff of the regular Force shall count as qualifying service and a break in service not exceeding twelve months shall not be regarded as breaking the continuity of that service.

(3) The design and form of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force Faithful Service decoration shall be as described in the Schedule.

13. (1) The Governor-General, on the advice of the Minister after the Minister has consulted with the Commander, may cancel the award to any person of any decoration for Distinguished Service, Meritorious Service or for Long Service and Good Conduct and that person shall immediately return the decoration to a person designated by the Governor-General to receive it.

Cancellation and
restoration of
awards.

(2) The Governor-General, on the advice of the Minister after the Minister has consulted with the Commander, may restore any award which has been cancelled under paragraph (1).

(3) The Minister, after consultation with the Commander, may cancel the award to any person of a decoration for Faithful Service, and that person shall immediately return the decoration to a person designated by the Governor-General to receive it.

(4) The Minister, after consultation with the Commander, may restore any award which has been cancelled under paragraph (3).

Award of clasp.

14. (1) Without prejudice to paragraph (2) of regulation 8, where any member of the Defence Force has been awarded a decoration for any conduct described in regulation 4, 5, 6 or 7, the Governor-General may, on the advice of the Minister after the Minister has consulted with the Commander, award a clasp to that member for any subsequent similar conduct.

(2) A clasp awarded under paragraph (1) of this regulation or paragraph (2) of regulation 8 shall be a silver bar mounted on a small silver rose emblem and worn at the lower end of the medal ribbon, and when the medal ribbon is worn alone a small silver rose emblem shall be mounted in the centre.

Award of certificates.

15. (1) The Security Council may award the National Security Council Commendation Certificate, together with a gold ribbon thirty-two millimetres in length and twelve millimetres in width, to any member of the Defence Force who, in the opinion of the Security Council, deserves to be commended for any act or service that does not warrant the award of any decoration specified in paragraph (1) of regulation 3.

(2) Without prejudice to paragraph (1) the Commander may award the Commander Royal Bahamas Defence Force Commendation Certificate, together with a green ribbon thirty-two millimetres in length and twelve millimetres in width, to any member of the Defence Force who, in the opinion of the Commander, deserves to be commended for any act or service that does not warrant the award of any decoration specified in paragraph (1) of regulation 4.

(3) A ribbon awarded under paragraph (1) or (2) shall be worn on official occasions above the left hand breast pocket by the respective recipient of the award.

Loss of decoration.

16. A decoration, or clasp, which was awarded under these regulations and which is lost may, on the recommendation of the Commander, be replaced at the expense of the person to whom the decoration, or clasp, was awarded.

17. (1) Any person who —

Offence and
penalty.

- (a) without authority, wears a decoration, or clasp, awarded under these regulations, or wears any other decoration, or clasp, so nearly resembling a decoration, or clasp, awarded under these regulations as to be calculated to deceive;
- (b) falsely represents himself to be a person who is or was entitled to wear a decoration, or clasp, awarded under these regulations; or
- (c) without authority or excuse supplies or offers to supply a decoration, or clasp, which may be awarded under these regulations to any person not authorised to wear it,

is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine of five hundred dollars or to imprisonment for a term of six months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(2) Nothing in paragraph (1) shall—

- (a) prevent any person from wearing any uniform or dress in the course of a stage play performed in a place duly licensed or authorised for public performance of stage plays or in the case of a music hall or circus performance, or in the course of any *bona fide* military representation; or
- (b) prohibit the use and wearing of ordinary naval badges or of brooches or ornaments representing them.

SCHEDULE (Regulations 3(2) and 12(3))

The metallic composition of each medal shall be silver or nickel plated silver, with the exception of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force Cross which shall be a coloured enamel.

The name, rank and initials of the person to whom a decoration is awarded shall be engraved in an appropriate place on the decoration.

There is to be included on all awards of medals a clasp across the ribbon inscribed with one word “THE BAHAMAS” and also in respect of the campaign decoration a clasp bearing the name of the campaign shall be mounted above, “THE BAHAMAS”.

Subject to the above, the decorations shall be of the following designs–

1. ROYAL BAHAMAS DEFENCE FORCE CROSS DECORATION

The cross shall be red and green in colour and shall have irregularly shaped ends. On the obverse, in the centre, shall be a white fowl anchor. The reverse shall carry the words “DEFENCE FORCE CROSS, RBDF”. The cross at its widest point shall not exceed 38 millimetres, and shall be suspended from the ribbon by a horizontal bar.

The ribbon shall be 42 millimetres long and 32 millimetres wide and shall be red with two vertical green stripes and two vertical white stripes. The two green stripes shall be 4 millimetres wide and shall be 5 millimetres from either edge of the ribbon. Each white stripe shall be 2 millimetres wide and shall be inwards of either green stripe.

2. ROYAL BAHAMAS DEFENCE FORCE GALLANTRY DECORATION

The medal shall be of a circular shape with a diameter of 38 millimetres and shall have on the obverse a pilot’s wheel atop a bow of a ship head with a fowl anchor superimposed on the bow. The bow of a ship would appear to be cutting through water. The reverse shall carry the words “GALLANTRY RBDF”. The medal shall be suspended from the ribbon by a horizontal bar.

The ribbon shall be 42 millimetres long and 32 millimetres wide and shall be green with two vertical gold stripes and one vertical black stripe. Each gold stripe shall be 3 millimetres wide and shall be 10 millimetres from either edge of the ribbon. The black stripe shall be 6 millimetres wide and shall be placed centrally on the ribbon.

3. ROYAL BAHAMAS DEFENCE FORCE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE DECORATION

The medal shall be of a circular shape with a diameter of 38 millimetres and shall have on the obverse an emblematic design consisting of an anchor in a circle bearing the words “ROYAL BAHAMAS DEFENCE FORCE” surrounded by a laurel wreath and surmounted by a shield bearing a representation of the Santa Maria, and a demisun. The reverse shall carry the words “FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE RBDF”. The medal shall be suspended from the ribbon by a horizontal bar.

The ribbon shall be 42 millimetres long and 32 millimetres wide and shall be red with two white stripes and one aquamarine stripe. Each white stripe shall be 2 millimetres wide and shall be 12 millimetres from either edge of the ribbon. The aquamarine stripe shall be 4 millimetres wide and shall be centrally placed on the ribbon.

**4. ROYAL BAHAMAS DEFENCE FORCE
MERITORIOUS SERVICE DECORATION**

The medal shall be of a circular shape with a diameter of 38 millimetres and shall have, on the obverse in the centre, a side view of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II from the shoulder up. The words “ELIZABETH II DEI GRATIA REGINA. F-D” shall appear around the top half of the circumference. The reverse shall carry the words “FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE RBDF”. The medal shall be suspended from the ribbon by a horizontal bar. The ribbon shall be 42 millimetres long and 32 millimetres wide and shall be red, green, gold and aquamarine vertically striped. There shall be two red stripes which shall be 8 millimetres wide and shall be on either edge of the ribbon. There shall be two green stripes which shall each be 2 millimetres wide and shall be next to each red stripe. The aquamarine stripe shall be 8 millimetres wide and shall be centrally placed between two gold stripes.

**5. ROYAL BAHAMAS DEFENCE FORCE LONG SERVICE
AND GOOD CONDUCT DECORATION**

The medal shall be of a circular shape with a diameter of 38 millimetres and shall have on the obverse, the Coat of Arms of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas and the words “LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT” around the top half of the circumference and “RBDF” at the bottom. The medal shall be suspended from the ribbon by a horizontal bar.

The ribbon shall be 42 millimetres long and 32 millimetres wide and shall be aquamarine with two vertical gold stripes and one green vertical stripe. Each gold stripe shall be 3 millimetres wide and shall be 10 millimetres from either edge of the ribbon. The green stripe shall be 6 millimetres wide and shall be centrally placed on the ribbon.

**6. ROYAL BAHAMAS DEFENCE FORCE TRAUMATIC
SERVICE DECORATION**

The medal shall be of a circular shape with a diameter of 38 millimetres and shall have on the obverse a, purple heart and a purple cross in the centre, with a gold ribbon surrounding it, with the words “TRAUMATIC SERVICE” inscribed. The medal shall be suspended from the ribbon by a horizontal bar.

The ribbon shall be 42 millimetres long and 32 millimetres wide and shall be purple with two vertical gold stripes, two vertical black stripes and a vertical aquamarine stripe. Each gold stripe shall be 3 millimetres wide and shall be placed 8 millimetres from either edge of the ribbon. Each black stripe shall be 2 millimetres wide and shall be next to each gold stripe. The aquamarine stripe shall be 3 millimetres wide and shall be centrally placed on the ribbon.

7. ROYAL BAHAMAS DEFENCE FORCE OVERSEAS CAMPAIGN

The medal shall be of a circular shape with a diameter of 38 millimetres and shall have on the obverse a four point star in the centre of which is a circle divided into three sectors from the centre. The left and right sectors being one hundred and thirty degrees from due north, and the bottom sector being one hundred degrees between the left and right sectors. The left sector shall have a patrol vessel head on breaking, waves through the water. The right sector shall have an aircraft head-on angled towards the centre of the circle. The bottom sector shall have an emblematic design consisting of an anchor in a circle bearing the words “Royal Bahamas Defence Force” surrounded by a laurel wreath and surmounted by a shield bearing a representation of the Santa Maria, and a demisun. Between each point of the star on the outside shall be a fern design. The bottom of the star shall have the words “Overseas Campaign” on a ribbon type mounting. The reverse shall carry the words “for Overseas Campaign RBDF” and the country’s name where the campaign was conducted. The medal shall be suspended from the ribbon by a horizontal bar. The ribbon shall be 42 millimetres long and 32 millimetres wide and shall be aquamarine with two black stripes and one gold stripe. Each black stripe shall be 2 millimetres wide and shall be 12 millimetres from either edge of the ribbon. The gold strip shall be 4 millimetres wide and shall be centrally placed on the ribbon.

8. ROYAL BAHAMAS DEFENCE FORCE FAITHFUL SERVICE DECORATION

The medal shall be of a circular shape with a diameter of 38 millimetres and shall have on the obverse a pair of hands placed together as if in prayer with the words “FAITHFUL SERVICE” around the top half of the circumference. The reverse shall carry the words “FOR FAITHFUL SERVICE, RBDF”. The medal shall be suspended from the ribbon by a horizontal bar. The ribbon shall be 42 millimetres long and 32 millimetres wide and shall be green with two black vertical stripes and one gold stripe. Each black stripe shall be 3 millimetres wide and shall be 10 millimetres from either edge of the ribbon. The gold stripe shall be 6 millimetres wide and shall be centrally placed on the ribbon.