

ANNEX C - ORDER OF MILITARY MERIT FACT SHEET

The Order of Military Merit recognizes distinctive merit and exceptional service displayed by the men and women of the Canadian Forces, both regular and reserve. Many have demonstrated dedication and devotion beyond the call of duty, and the Order honours them for their commitment to Canada, according to the following three levels:

The level of **Commander** (post-nominals: C.M.M.) recognizes outstanding meritorious service and demonstrated leadership in duties of great responsibility.

The level of **Officer** (post-nominals: O.M.M.) recognizes outstanding meritorious service in duties of responsibility.

The level of **Member** (post-nominals: M.M.M.) recognizes exceptional service or performance of duty.

Eligibility and Nominations

A commanding officer or a military advisory committee (for ranks of colonel and above) recommends to the Chief of the Defence Staff the names of those serving members of the Canadian Forces, both regular and reserve, they consider eligible. The Chief of the Defence Staff then submits the names to the Governor General for approval.

The number of appointments per year is limited to one-tenth of one per cent of the average number of persons who were members of the Canadian Forces during the previous year. In 1997, for instance, 110 appointments were made. There are no posthumous appointments. Recipients may be promoted within the Order. They must exchange their insignia for that which corresponds to the new level, since no member may hold more than one appointment at any time.

The Order's constitution permits members of the armed forces of another country to be appointed as honorary commanders, officers and members. Appointments are made for outstanding meritorious service to Canada or to the Canadian Forces in the performance of military duties.