



Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal Determination No. 13 of 2026, Military Factor Framework – Special Operations Forces Allowances

The Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal, make this Determination under section 58H of the *Defence Act 1903*. It relates to Matter No. 11 of 2026 – Special Operations Forces Allowances Review.

Dated 21 October 2026

Bernadette O'Neill

President

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Andrea Lester

Member

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Major General Gerard Fogarty, AO (Retd)

Member

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1 Name

1. This Determination is the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal Determination No. 13 of 2026, Military Factor Framework – Special Operations Forces Allowances.
2. This Determination may also be cited as DFRT Determination No. 13 of 2026.

2 Commencement

Each provision of this instrument specified in column 1 of the table commences, or is taken to have commenced, in accordance with column 2 of the table. Any other statement in column 2 has effect according to its terms.

Commencement information	
Column 1	Column 2
Provisions	Commencement
1. The whole of this instrument	28 January 2027

Note: This table relates only to the provisions of this instrument as originally made. It will not be amended to deal with any later amendments of this instrument.

3 Authority

This instrument is made under section 58H of the *Defence Act 1903*.

4 Schedules

Each instrument that is specified in a Schedule to this instrument is amended or repealed as set out in the applicable items in the Schedule concerned, and any other item in a Schedule to this instrument has effect according to its terms.

Schedule 1—Land domain amendments

DFRT Determination No. 6 of 2024, ADF Military Factor Framework

1 After paragraph A.1.5.d

Insert:

- da. If a member is eligible for any of the following and Special Forces Integrator Allowance on the same day — the allowance payable to the member is Special Forces Integrator Allowance.
 - i. HAPO Descent Allowance.
 - ii. HAPO Support Allowance.
 - iii. Special Forces High Risk Descent Allowance.
 - iv. Special Forces High Risk Descent plus HAPO Allowance.
- db. If a member is eligible for any of the following and Special Forces Instructor Allowance on the same day — the allowance payable to the member is Special Forces Instructor Allowance.
 - i. HAPO Descent Allowance.
 - ii. HAPO Support Allowance.
 - iii. Special Forces High Risk Descent Allowance.
 - iv. Special Forces High Risk Descent plus HAPO Allowance.
- dc. If a member is eligible for any of the following and Special Forces Operator Allowance on the same day — the allowance payable to the member is Special Forces Operator Allowance.
 - i. HAPO Descent Allowance.
 - ii. HAPO Support Allowance.
 - iii. Special Forces High Risk Descent Allowance.
 - iv. Special Forces High Risk Descent plus HAPO Allowance.

2 Section B.2.1

Insert:

Special Forces developmental parachuting descent means an activity conducted by a qualified paratrooper who is responsible for conducting a descent under a capability development trial directive using any of the following.

- a. A parachute system that is not in-service in the ADF.
- b. Ancillary equipment that is not in-service in the ADF.
- c. Parachute procedures that are not in-service in the ADF.

Special Forces high risk descent means any of the following.

- a. Military special operations vector descent.
- b. Military tandem descent.
- c. Military tandem instructor descent.
- d. Military tandem tethered bundle descent.
- e. Special Forces developmental parachuting descent.

Special Forces Integrator position means a position in Special Operations Command that can only be held by a Special Forces Integrator.

3 **Section B.2.1**

Repeal the following definitions.

- a. Definition of **Special Forces support 1B**.
- b. Definition of **Special Forces support 1C**.
- c. Definition of **Special Forces support 2**.
- d. Definition of **Special Forces support position**.

4 **Section B.2.1**

Insert:

Special Forces training school means any of the following.

- a. ADF Parachuting School.
- b. ADF School of Special Operations.
- c. Defence Special Operations Training and Education Centre.

Special operations forces 1 liability, in relation to a member, means having a liability to do all of the following.

- a. Be capable of being placed on a notice to move or recall requirement for domestic or international operations at short notice.
- b. Have regular access to classified and sensitive information pertaining to special operations.
- c. Be subject to travel restrictions.
- d. Complete additional specific Special Forces' support training.
- e. Deploy or relocate at short notice to support a force element in either a barracks environment or any other forward operating area.

Special operations forces 2 liability has the meaning given in section B.2.1A.

Special operations forces 3 liability, in relation to a member, means having a liability to support activities in Special Operations Command that the CDF is satisfied have specific sensitivities.

5 After section B.2.1

Insert:

B.2.1A Special operations forces 2 liability

1. A member has a **special operations forces 2 liability** if all of the following apply.
 - a. They hold an approved placement in the Special Operations Forces Interoperability Framework.
 - b. They are embedded with a Special Forces' force element or Special Forces' team as defined in a Special Operations Command order made by the Special Operations Commander Australia.
 - c. They have the same operational liability as the Special Forces' force element or Special Forces' team in which they are embedded.
2. A member does not have a special operations forces 2 liability if the CDF is satisfied that the member is not exposed to an equivalent level of personal risk in any of the following environments as other members of the Special Forces' force element or Special Forces' team in which they are embedded.
 - a. The training environment.
 - b. The operational environment.

6 Subsection B.2.9.1

Omit "Special Forces Support 1B/1C" (wherever occurring), substitute "Special Operations Forces 1".

7 Subsection B.2.10.1

Omit "Special Forces Support 1B/1C" (wherever occurring), substitute "Special Operations Forces 1".

8 Paragraph B.2.11.1.b

Omit "Special Forces Support 1B/1C", substitute "Special Operations Forces 1".

9 Paragraph B.2.12.1.b

Omit "Special Forces Support 1B/1C", substitute "Special Operations Forces 1".

10 After section B.2.15

Insert:

B.2.15A Special Forces High Risk Descent Allowance

1. A member is eligible for Special Forces High Risk Descent Allowance if they meet all of the following.
 - a. They undertake a Special Forces high risk descent.
 - b. They hold any of the following qualifications.
 - i. Advanced Military Tandem Operator.
 - ii. Military Special Operations Vector Operator.
 - iii. Military Tandem Instructor.
 - iv. Military Tandem Operator.
 - v. Military Tandem Tethered Bundle.
2. Special Forces High Risk Descent Allowance is payable at Military Factor tier Z – 10.

B.2.15B Special Forces High Risk Descent plus HAPO Allowance

1. A member is eligible for Special Forces High Risk Descent plus HAPO Allowance if they meet all of the following.
 - a. They undertake a descent that is all of the following.
 - i. A Special Forces high risk descent.
 - ii. A HAPO descent.
 - b. They hold any of the following qualifications.
 - i. Advanced Military Tandem Operator.
 - ii. Military Special Operations Vector Operator.
 - iii. Military Tandem Instructor.
 - iv. Military Tandem Operator.
 - v. Military Tandem Tethered Bundle.
2. Special Forces High Risk Descent plus HAPO Allowance is payable at Military Factor tier Z – 11.

11 Subdivision 5 to Division 2 to Part B (heading)

Omit “Forces Disability”, substitute “Operations Forces”.

12 Sections B.2.17 to B.2.20

Repeal the sections, substitute:

B.2.17 Special Forces Instructor Allowance

1. A member is eligible for Special Forces Instructor Allowance if they meet all of the following.
 - a. They hold current qualifications as any of the following.
 - i. Special Forces Integrator.
 - ii. Special Forces Officer.
 - iii. Special Forces Operator.
 - b. They are posted to one of the following positions.
 - i. A Special Forces instructor position.
 - ii. A position in a foreign defence force that the CDF is satisfied involves similar duties to a Special Forces Instructor at a Special Forces Training School.
2. Special Forces Instructor Allowance is payable at Military Factor tier H.

B.2.18 Special Forces Integrator Allowance

1. A member is eligible for Special Forces Integrator Allowance if they meet all of the following.
 - a. They hold a current qualification as a Special Forces Integrator.
 - b. They are posted to one of the following positions.
 - i. A Special Forces Integrator position.
 - ii. A position in a foreign defence force that the CDF is satisfied involves duties similar to those of a Special Forces Integrator position.
2. Special Forces Integrator Allowance is payable at Military Factor tier H.

B.2.19 Special Operations Forces 1 Allowance

1. A member is eligible for Special Operations Forces 1 Allowance if they meet all of the following.
 - a. They have a special operations forces 1 liability.
 - b. They are posted to, or performing CDF approved temporary duty in, any of the following positions.
 - i. A position in Special Operations Command.
 - ii. A position designated as a Special Forces position.
 - iii. A position with a foreign defence force that the CDF is satisfied involves a special operations forces 1 liability or a similar liability.

2. Special Operations Forces 1 Allowance is payable at Military Factor tier A.

B.2.20 Special Operations Forces 2/3 Allowance

1. A member is eligible for Special Operations Forces 2/3 Allowance if they meet all of the following.
 - a. They are performing duties with any of the following.
 - i. A special operations forces 2 liability.
 - ii. A special operations forces 3 liability.
 - b. They are posted to, or performing CDF approved temporary duty in, any of the following positions.
 - i. A position in Special Operations Command.
 - ii. A position with a foreign defence force that the CDF is satisfied involves a special operations forces 2 liability, special operations forces 3 liability, or similar liability.
2. Special Operations Forces 2/3 Allowance is payable at Military Factor tier F.

13 Paragraph B.2.21.1.b

Repeal the paragraph, substitute:

- b. They are undertaking training towards a qualification to be any of the following.
 - i. Special Forces Integrator.
 - ii. Special Forces Officer.
 - iii. Special Forces Operator.
 - iv. Tactical Assault Group Clearance Diver.

14 Paragraph B.2.22.1.a

Repeal the paragraph, substitute:

- a. They hold current qualifications as any of the following.
 - i. Special Forces Officer.
 - ii. Special Forces Operator.
 - iii. Tactical Assault Group Clearance Diver.

15 Section B.2.23 (heading)

Omit "Special Forces Support 1B/1C"; substitute "Special Operations Forces 1".

- 16 Section B.2.23**
Omit “Special Forces Support 1B/1C” (wherever occurring), substitute “Special Operations Forces 1”.
- 17 Paragraph B.2.29.1.a**
Repeal the paragraph, substitute:
- a. They hold current qualifications as any of the following.
 - i. Special Forces Officer.
 - ii. Special Forces Operator.
- 18 Section B.2.32 (heading)**
Omit “Special Forces Support 1B/1C”, substitute “Special Operations Forces 1”.
- 19 Section B.2.32**
Omit “Special Forces Support 1B/1C” (wherever occurring), substitute “Special Operations Forces 1”.
- 20 Sections B.2.34 and B.2.35**
Repeal the sections.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal Determination No. 13 of 2026, Military Factor Framework – Special Operations Forces Allowances

This Determination amends Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal (DFRT) Determination No. 6 of 2024, Military Factor Framework Determination (the Military Factor Determination) made under section 58H of the *Defence Act 1903* (the Act) and in accordance with subsection 33(3) of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901* (AI Act). The Principal Determination sets out provisions dealing with allowances for members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

The purpose of this Determination is to modernise Special Operations Forces allowance arrangements under the Military Factor Framework, ensuring remuneration accurately reflects contemporary workforce structures, operational risk, and service conditions, while improving administrative clarity and overall efficiency.

Section 1 of this Determination sets out the manner in which this Determination may be cited.

Section 2 of this Determination provides that the Determination commences on 28 January 2027.

Section 3 provides that this instrument has authority under section 58H of the *Defence Act 1903*.

Section 4 provides that each instrument that is specified in a Schedule to this instrument is amended or repealed as set out in the applicable items in the Schedule concerned, and any other item in a Schedule to this instrument has effect according to its terms.

Schedule 1—Land domain amendments

Item 1 amends section A.1.5 of the Military Factor Determination, which provides specific rules about how allowances are paid when a member is eligible for more than one allowance on the same day. The item inserts 3 new rules relating to the payment of the Special Forces Integrator Allowance, the Special Forces Instructor Allowance and the Special Forces Operator Allowance. If a member is also eligible for any of the following allowances on the same day, they will receive the relevant of Special Forces Integrator Allowance, the Special Forces Instructor Allowance and the Special Forces Operator Allowance.

- HAPO Descent Allowance.
- HAPO Support Allowance.
- Special Forces High Risk Descent Allowance.
- Special Forces High Risk Descent plus HAPO Allowance.

This rule displaces the general rule at paragraph A.1.5.e, which provides that the member receives the allowance with the higher daily rate.

Items 2 to 4 amend section B.2.1 of the Military Factor Determination, which provides definitions that apply across Division 2 of Part B. Item 2 inserts definitions of the following phrases:

- Special Forces developmental parachuting descent.
- Special Forces high risk descent.
- Special Forces Integrator position.
- Special Forces training school.

Item 3 repeals the following definitions, which are no longer in use as a consequence of amendments made by this Determination.

- Special Forces support 1B.
- Special Forces support 1C.
- Special Forces support 2.
- Special Forces support position.

Item 4 inserts definitions of the following phrases:

- Special operations forces 1 liability.
- Special operations forces 2 liability, which refers to section B.2.1A inserted by item 5 of this Schedule.
- Special operations forces 3 liability.

In accordance with section 11A of the AI Act, the definitions are inserted in the appropriate alphabetical position determined on a letter-by-letter basis.

Item 5 inserts after section B.2.1 of the Military Factor Determination the definition of Special operations forces 2 liability.

Items 6 to 9, 15 and 16, and 18 and 19 amend various sections of Division 2 of Part B of the Military Factor Determination by omitting Special Forces Support 1B/1C and substituting it with Special Operations Forces 1. These changes are consequential to changes made by item 12 of this Schedule.

Item 10 inserts into the Military Factor Determination 2 new allowances:

- At section B.2.15A, Special Forces High Risk Descent Allowance. This allowance requires a member to undertake a Special Forces high risk descent, as defined in section B.2.1, and to hold any of the following qualifications:
 - Advanced Military Tandem Operator.
 - Military Special Operations Vector Operator.
 - Military Tandem Instructor.
 - Military Tandem Operator.
 - Military Tandem Tethered Bundle.

This allowance attracts a Military Factor tier Z – 10.

- At section B.2.15B, Special Forces High Risk Descent plus HAPO Allowance. This allowance requires a member to undertake a Special Forces high risk descent that is also a high altitude parachute operation, as defined in section B.2.1, and to hold any of the following qualifications:
 - Advanced Military Tandem Operator.
 - Military Special Operations Vector Operator.
 - Military Tandem Instructor.
 - Military Tandem Operator.
 - Military Tandem Tethered Bundle.

This allowance attracts a Military Factor tier Z – 11.

Item 11 amends the heading of Subdivision 5 to Division to Part B of the Military Factor Determination to reflect changes to the subdivision made by this Schedule.

Item 12 repeals section B.2.17 to B.2.20 of the Military Factor Determination, which establish the following allowances:

- Special Forces Support 1B/1C Allowance.
- Special Forces Support 2/3 – Special Forces School Instructor Allowance.
- Special Forces Support 2/3 Allowance.
- Special Forces Operator – Special Forces School Instructor Allowance.

These allowances have been substituted with the following:

- At section B.2.17, Special Forces Instructor allowance. This allowance requires a member to hold a qualification as a Special Forces Integrator, Special Forces Officer or a Special Forces Operator, and be posted to a Special Forces Instructor position or a similar position in a foreign military. This allowance attracts a Military Factor tier H.
- At Section B.2.18, Special Forces Integrator Allowance. This allowance requires a member to hold a current qualification as a Special Forces Integrator and to be posted to a Special Forces Integrator position in the ADF or a similar position in a foreign military. This allowance attracts a Military Factor tier H.
- At section B.2.19, Special Operations Forces 1 Allowance. This allowance requires a member to have a special operations forces 1 liability and to be posted to, or performing temporary duty in a position in Special Operations Command, a designated Special Forces' position, or a position in a foreign force that the CDF is satisfied has a special operations forces 1 or similar liability. This allowance attracts a Military Factor tier A.
- At section B.2.20, Special Operations Forces 2/3 Allowance. This allowance requires a member to have a special operations forces 2 or 3 liability and to be posted to, or performing temporary duty in a position in Special Operations Command, or a position in a foreign force that the CDF is satisfied has a special operations forces 2 or 3, or similar liability. This allowance attracts a Military Factor tier F.

Item 13 amends section B.2.21 of the Military Factor Determination, which provides Special Forces Trainee Allowance. The item repeals paragraph B.2.21.1.b and substitutes it with a list of roles a trainee must be undertaking training for, those being a Special Forces Integrator, a Special Forces Officer, a Special Forces Operator or a Tactical Assault Group Clearance Diver.

Item 14 amends section B.2.22 of the Military Factor Determination, which provides Special Forces Operator Allowance. The item repeals paragraph B.2.22.1.a and substitutes it with the requirement to hold a current qualification as a Special Forces Officer, a Special Forces Operator or a Tactical Assault Group Clearance Diver.

Item 17 amends section B.2.29 of the Military Factor Determination, which provides Special Forces Operator Sustainment Allowance. The item repeals paragraph B.2.29.1.a and substitutes it with the requirement to hold a current qualification as a Special Forces Officer, or a Special Forces Operator.

Item 20 repeals sections B.2.34 and B.2.35 of the Military Factor Determination, which establish Special Forces Operator – ADF Parachute School Instructor Allowance and Special Forces Operator – Special Forces School Instructor Allowance (with sustainment). These allowances are no longer required as a consequence of changes made by this Schedule.

Section 58H
Defence Act 1903