



# AUSTRALIAN ARMY

## ARMY HEADQUARTERS

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R1-4-B003, Russell Offices, CANBERRA ACT 2600

R2620427

**See distribution**

**CA DIRECTIVE 05/08**

### **ARMY INTERIM COMBAT BOOT POLICY**

#### **References:**

- A. ASOD, Vol 1, Chap Five
- B. Health Directive 256 dated 17 May 04

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Terra Combat Boot was introduced into service in 1999 as the replacement for the General Purpose (GP) Boot. Since 1999 five versions of the Terra Boot have been issued, each version incorporating modifications to materials or design intended to enhance the functionality or comfort of the boot for the wearer. It has evolved into a good boot which remains fit for purpose. It is the Army issue boot.
2. After wide consultation and feedback from across Army I have decided to direct an interim Combat Boot policy that is responsive to soldiers' needs, preferences and practice. Feedback received includes a draft version of the ADF Combat Boot Review.

#### **AIM**

3. The aim of this Directive is to authorise Army personnel to wear privately procured and funded combat boots from an endorsed range of boots.

#### **INTENT**

4. My intent is that for, an interim period, soldiers may, at their own expense, purchase and wear endorsed (Annex A) non-issue boots. It is intended that this policy will remain extant until the introduction of the next generation of combat footwear. The identification of the next generation combat footwear is unlikely to be known until mid to late 2009.

#### **CONSIDERATIONS**

5. While developing this Directive I have considered the following factors:
  - a. Since introduction, the in-service combat boot has undergone considerable improvement as a consequence of extensive user feedback.
  - b. A majority of soldiers seem satisfied with the in-service boot, and more are satisfied with the latest version of the boot.
  - c. A number of soldiers wish to exercise choice in deciding which boots to wear and are exposed to a wide range of boots in stores, catalogues and when observing coalition partners overseas.
  - d. A small number of soldiers cannot be properly fitted with the in-service boot.

- e. The Zamberlan extreme cold weather boot is performing well.
- f. Army is now operating in a wide variety of geographic and climatic conditions which were not envisaged when the requirement for the in-service boot was stated.
- g. It is clear that one boot cannot meet the requirements of all soldiers or be suitable for desert, tropical, temperate and cold weather wear.
- h. The proper fitting of the in-service boot remains a substantial problem. To assist in fixing this issue I have directed that a boot fitting specialist be permanently engaged to provide professional fitting advice at Army point of entry Q stores.

### **ENDORSED BOOTS**

6. In order to satisfy my duty of care responsibilities I requested the Land Engineering Agency to conduct a comparative assessment of a range of commercially available boots. From this assessment they have recommended 4 non-issue boots for use within the Army. Their assessment is not complete and more boots may be added to the approved list at a later date.

7. Should soldiers or commanders wish to have additional boots added to the list of endorsed boots they are to be nominated to the Army Clothing Personal Equipment Committee (ACPEC). The point of contact for ACPEC is the SO2 Clothing at AHQ on 02 62652051.

### **POLICY**

8. The following direction is provided:
- a. Soldiers may elect to procure at their own expense a combat boot from the endorsed range of combat boots as detailed at annex A.
  - b. The boot must be of a similar colour as the in-service combat boot.
  - c. Black coloured boots are not acceptable except for personnel on TAG duties.
  - d. As of 2 June 2008 only the issue combat boot and those boots nominated at annex A (as amended) are authorised for wear.
  - e. Soldiers are to continue to wear the standard issue in service combat boots while in barracks or when directed by their Commanding Officer when wearing Dress Order Numbers 4A, 5B, and MP5 IAW ref A.
  - f. Non-issue combat boots may only be worn while on exercise or on operations and wearing Dress Order Numbers 4B, 5B, and MP5 in either DPCU or DPDU.
  - g. In the event that a privately procured combat boot becomes defective or unserviceable and needs replacement during the course of an exercise or operation, it will be replaced by the standard in-service combat boot, unless the soldier has made other arrangements.
  - h. All personnel retain an entitlement to be issued medically indicated non-standard footwear outside the normal size range due to:
    - (1) abnormally large, small, wide or narrow feet/ankles;
    - (2) differently sized feet; or

- (3) suffering a medical problem.

Medically indicated footwear is special footwear chosen from proprietary brands (off the shelf) or made to measure to overcome medical problems and provide additional cushioning, shock absorbency, support, comfort or additional depth for the wearer and are issued IAW ref B.

- i. This Directive pertains only to combat footwear that can be worn with Dress Orders 4A, 4B, 5B, and MP5 and excludes all other footwear such as protective safety work boots and parade boots.
- j. When personnel make the election to purchase their own combat footwear the Commanding Officer is to ensure that they complete a questionnaire which will be hosted on my "Speak to the Chief Website". This questionnaire will seek feedback as to what significant areas of difference exist between an individual's boot of choice and the in-service boot. The feedback from this questionnaire will be used to inform development of the next generation combat footwear.

### MONITOR AND REVIEW

9. The list of endorsed boots will be reviewed on a half yearly basis as an agenda item through the ACPEC. The first review will focus on the potential expansion of the range of endorsed combat boots listed at annex A. Any initial amendments will be notified by 1 May 2008.



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R1-4-B003

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**Annex:**

A. Range of Defence Endorsed Boots Which May be Privately Procured at Members Own Expense

**Distribution:**

DCA  
LCAUST  
SOCAUST  
COMD TC-A  
COMD 1 DIV  
COMD 2 DIV  
CJLOG

**Internal:**

DGPP-A  
DGPERS-A  
DGCMP-A  
DCOORD  
DGFLW  
DGRES-A  
PRINCHAP-A  
CCMA  
DOHS-A  
RSM-A  
SCA

**For information:**

CDF  
SEC  
VCDF  
CN  
CAF  
CJOPS  
HPE  
CEO DMO  
HLS  
DGPA

**LIST OF ENDORSED BOOTS**

1. The following list of boots have been assessed against 14 key functional characteristics being, fit, cushioning, support, stability, traction and grip, flexibility, protection, environmental protection, health and hygiene, comfort, prevention of injury, safety, ease of donning and doffing and durability.

2. Soldiers may purchase, at their own expense, boots from the following list of boots in a similar colour as the in-service combat boot. These are to be worn only while on exercise or operations. Except for TAG operations, black boots are not acceptable.

- a. ALTAMA 4158 3LC Hot Weather;
- b. BELLEVILLE M590 Hot Weather;
- c. BATES 30501 Durashock Desert; and
- d. CROSSFIRE Peacekeeper Plus.