

## MEAO Day

The Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) commemoration honours Australian Defence Force personnel who served in conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan between 2001 and 2021.



Tragically, 41 Australian lives were lost in Afghanistan and two lives were lost in Iraq, while many veterans returned with lasting injury and trauma.

This year, RSL NSW established 11 July 2024 as the MEAO Commemorative Day.

### MEAO facts

'MEAO' stands for Middle East Area of Operations

A 'service person' is someone who served in the Defence Force (the Army, Navy or Air Force)

On 11 July 2021, the Government announced all troops had left Afghanistan, bringing our nation's longest war to a close



## Activity

For the MEAO commemoration this year, we are going to write and decorate a postcard for someone who has served. Sending a postcard is a great way to make someone feel special.

### Step 1. Write

Here you can practise writing your postcard.

### IDEAS!



- What would you say to someone who served?
- What would you tell them about yourself?
- Why do you think MEAO Day is important?



### POSTCARDS OF HONOUR

From

First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Made by Australian students in honour of your service.

Step 2

## Step 2. Decorate

Practise decorating your postcard below.  
You can draw, paint or glue – it's up to you!

### IDEAS!



- What have you learned about MEAO Day?
- What does the MEAO commemoration mean to you? It might be a symbol or a story.



When your postcard ideas are ready,  
you can start the real thing!



# POSTCARDS OF HONOUR

