

# The DMACC Coins

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'Challenge' coins display the emblem or insignia of an organisation and are popular in the US military. Their origins and traditions are debated but probably originate in the United States Army Air Service in World War One. The coins have been used in a semi official capacity to mark membership of a unit or as awards to denote special achievements. In some military units members can be 'challenged' to produce their coin- and if they fail to do so owe the challenger a drink. Members of the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine (RCDM) academic units came across these coins while working with US Forces in Iraq and Afghanistan- and thought the tradition would translate well to the Defence Medical Services (DMS).



The original coin was made by the Academic Department of Military Emergency Medicine (ADMEM) in 2006 and features the RCDM crest on one side and a medical team off loading a patient from a CH47 on the other, based on images from the 2003 Gulf War. The Department of Military Anaesthesia and Critical Care (DMA&CC) coins have been designed to reflect the different elements of Defence Anaesthesia and the intention is to produce a different coin each year.

The 2008 Coin has a Triservice theme. The three small pictures show a triservice anaesthesia apparatus, a CH47 and RFA Argus. The main picture is taken from a photograph of an anaesthetic being given for rapid sequence induction and endotracheal intubation on the MERT in Afghanistan in 2007.



The 2009 Coin was made jointly with ADMEM for OP HERRICK 10 when the Role 3 hospital at Bastion became joint UK-US and also hosted the Danish Field Hospital. The coin includes UK, US, Danish and NATO flags surrounding a Red Cross on one side. On the other are the crests of Royal Centre for Defence Medicine, the Royal College of Anaesthetists and the College of Emergency Medicine.

The 2010 Coin has a regional anaesthesia theme and shows a drawing of the brachial plexus above a picture of ultrasound being used to locate the brachial plexus. Col Trip Buckenmaier US Army provided the original pictures from which these images were created during his deployment to Bastion in 2009.



The 2011 Coin is themed around massive transfusion. The images used are of a surgical team working at Bastion, a pile of empty blood bags, and a member of the Field Hospital managing the infusions. These images were created from photographs taken by Lt Col Simon Orr RAMC during HERRICK 10, 2009.

To date the coins have been given out on operational deployments to mark special achievements, to mark presentations at military anaesthetic meetings, to thank people within the cadre for their efforts on behalf of Defence Anaesthesia and thank members of the Royal College of Anaesthetists and the Association of Anaesthetists for support to DMA&CC.