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The Statutes of The Distinguished Service Order

Victoria R. & I.

VICTORIA, by the GRACE of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, Empress of India, to all to whom these presents shall come, greeting:

WHEREAS We have taken into Our Royal consideration that the means of adequately rewarding the distinguished services of Officers in Our Naval and Military Services who have been honourably mentioned in Despatches are limited; now for the purpose of attaining an end so desirable as that of rewarding individual instances of meritorious or distinguished services in war, We have instituted and created and by these presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, do institute and create a new Naval and Military Order of Distinction- to be designated as hereinafter described - which We are desirous should be highly prized by the Officers of Our Naval and Military Services, and We are graciously pleased to make, ordain, and establish the following rules and ordinances for the government of the same, which shall henceforth be inviolably observed and kept;

Firstly.

It is ordained, that this Order shall henceforth be styled and designated the "Distinguished Service Order".

Secondly.

It is ordained that the Order shall consist of the Sovereign, and of such Members or Companions as We, Our Heirs or Successors, shall appoint.

Thirdly.

It is ordained that We, Our Heirs and Successors, Kings and Queens Regnant of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Emperors and Empresses of India, are and forever shall be Sovereigns of this Order.

Fourthly.

It is ordained that no person shall be eligible for this distinction who doth not actually hold, at the time of his nomination, a Commission in Our Navy, in Our Land Forces, or Marines, or Our Indian or Colonial Naval or Military Forces, or a Commission in one of the Departments of our