

## Honours and Awards

### Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal.

1. In 2008, the Federal Government announced the establishment of the Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal (DHAT). DHAT is tasked to investigate Medallic recognition claims through an Inquiry Panel, in order to determine an outcome of such claims. The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, DR (COL) Mike Kelly, AM said: *"The establishment of the Tribunal is the fulfilment of a Government election promise, and is an important step in ensuring that Defence Honours and Awards issues are considered independently of both Defence and Government."*

2. Since the inception of DHAT, on 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 2008, the Inquiry Panels have reviewed the following:

- a. The Australian Defence Medal;
- b. 4RAR Malaysia 1966-67;
- c. Inquiry into the Eligibility of RAAF personnel, serving in Vietnam between 29 March and 29 April 1975, for the Vietnam Medal;
- d. The Battle of Long Tan Inquiry;
- e. Recognition for SASR Counter Terrorism and Special Recovery Duties;
- f. Inquiries into the Recognition of service for Entertainers in Viet Nam;
- g. Inquiry into ADF Service in Papua New Guinea post 16 September 1975 to the present;

3. The DHAT is now undergoing Inquiries into the following areas:

- a. RAAF Service in Ubon, Thailand between 1965-1968 (Closed 30 August 2010);
- b. Service into the Task Group Medical Support Element for the Gulf War 1990-1991 (TGMSE) (Closed 23 August 2010);
- c. Recognition of service for Rifle Company Butterworth (Closed 7 June 2010);
- d. Recognition of service for the Commonwealth Monitoring Force in Rhodesia 1979-1980 (Closed 13 August 2010);
- e. Recognition of Officers and Instructors of Cadets (Closed 30 August 2010);
- f. Peacekeeping Service from 14 September 1947 to the current day (Closed 21 December 2009); and

- g. ADF Service in Somalia 1992-1995 (Closed 24 August 2009).
4. To view the Reports, recommendations and other information on the DHAT, visit the website: <http://www.defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au/>

### **Directorate of Defence Honours and Awards.**

5. The Directorate of Defence Honours and Awards (DHA) produces a newsletter every quarter and members may wish to subscribe to the newsletter. The DHA website has a very detailed array of information, particularly for those who have served in foreign countries, who are now serving with the ADF.

6. Some matters that may interest members are the following:

- a. An update of the Timor Leste Solidarity Medal;
- b. Applications for medals for Current Serving Reservists;
- c. The AASM with Clasp “KUWAIT” and ASM with Clasp “KUWAIT” for the crew of HMAS CANBERRA for service during OP DAMASK VI;
- d. New Regulations for the INTERFET Medal for the overlap period to UNTAET (OP TANAGER);
- e. ASM Clasp “S. PACIFIC 2006” for eligible service with OP QUICK STEP (Fiji) in 2006;
- f. ASM Clasp “SUDAN” is now available for those eligible ADF members who served on OP HEDGEROW;
- g. AASM Clasp “IRAQ 2003” has been updated for eligible ADF members who have served on either OP RIVER or OP KRUGER; and
- h. ADM eligibility for Medically Discharged ADF members to be on a case-by-case basis.

7. The Directorate of Defence Honours & Awards website is: <http://www.defence.gov.au/medals/> or call 1 800 111 321

### **The Army Combat Badge (ACB).**

8. New Defence Instructions (Army), Personnel 119-1 Amdt 3, dated 24 August 2009 (DI (A)-PERS 119-1) has been released by the Office of the Chief of the Army (OCA). The policy has been enhanced to include Support to a given Combat Team or Battle Group, along with the member being Force Assigned, detached to by Operations Order to posted to a given

Combat Team.

9. For those who have served in the Force Communications Unit (FCU) Cambodia with UNTAC, ASC UNAMIR II (Rwanda), and ASC UNOSOM II (Somalia); the ACB **may** be eligible to members who satisfy the requirements of the new DI (A)-PERS 119-1.

10. Veterans of the aforementioned Operations have been awarded the ACB, by justification and vetting. All Corps members, including RASigs members, who believe that they may be entitled to the ACB, should consult with the DI (A)-PERS 119-1. The Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA) has been approved by SO1 Personnel Policy to confirm and vet members who have served in Cambodia, Rwanda and Somalia. This is to alleviate the burden from a range of Head of Corps (HOC).

11. Current and ex-serving members who believe that they match the criteria for the ACB are encouraged to contact WO2 Paul Copeland (Retired), for further information.

**Other Medal Submissions.**

12. The Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA) has placed a number of submissions to DHAT, for a range of service recognition Inquiries. To view these submissions, please visit the APPVA website: [www.peacekeepers.asn.au](http://www.peacekeepers.asn.au) Navigate to "For Veterans", scroll down to Submission Documentation. Feedback and information is welcomed.

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