



AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPER & PEACEMAKER
VETERANS' ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
P.O. BOX 552, TORQUAY, VIC, 3228

(INCORPORATED IN VICTORIA)

ABN 59 558 194 094

Patron
Major General John Pearn AM, KStJ,
RFD (Ret'd)

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 30 August 2007

RECLASSIFICATION OF SERVICE WELCOMED

The Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA) welcomed the recent announcement of the reclassification of service in Sierra Leone from Hazardous to Warlike conditions.

"For the 17 ADF members who undertook this deployment as part of OPERATION HUSKY, the reclassification means they can now access benefits to which they weren't previously entitled," said APPVA National President, Mr Paul Copeland.

OPERATION HUSKY saw ADF members deployed to Sierra Leone as part of the British led International Military Advisory Training Team. Their job was to provide military advice and training to the Sierra Leone Government Military forces.

"We thank the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Mr Bruce Billson, in committing to the review the service of Australian personnel in the West African nation."

Mr Copeland said the APPVA would continue to lobby to have service classification anomalies upgraded to where operational conditions indicated an environment of conflict or harm.

"This especially applies to the Army Training Support Team (ATST-EM) which served in East Timor during 2000-2003."

"ATST-EM personnel were recognised for carrying out their work with the East Timorese only in normal Peacetime service, while the Australian forces, including un-armed Military Liaison Officers were recognised under Warlike service."

Mr Copeland said the APPVA strongly supported the upgrading of OPERATION ASTUTE in Timor Leste to warlike service.

"The ongoing security situation indicates the level of conflict in the country is higher than in 1999-2003. This has been sourced from current serving ADF members."

"The APPVA continues to urge Minister Billson and the Defence Service Chiefs to review this application of non-warlike service as the unstable security situation in Timor Leste continues."

CONTACT: National President Paul Copeland Mobile: 0419 355 226

"Looking After Our Own"