



**Special Operations Attachment to
APPVA Clarke Review Submission
March 2009**

1. Special Operations is suggested to include Strategic and Field Electronic Intelligence (ELINT), Communications Intelligence (COMINT), Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) and/or Special Communications Operations (SCO) and other Intelligence Gathering Operations. Further information and discussion may be disclosed further upon a discreet interview, however it is noted that various operations with RAN Submarines have been recognised with covert Intelligence gathering, including Electronic Support Measures (ESM), as passive interception of a give foreign county's military and civilian communications. Other Special Operations conducted by Special Operations Command, have been duly recognized in the past, which falls short of a number of other covert operations that have been conducted by Australia, particularly during the Cold War and beyond.
2. The threat level or incurred danger is the exploitation and targeting of ADF personnel who hold high and codeword (caveat) security clearances, who serve in these particular sensitive roles. Exploitation may be from Hostile Foreign Intelligence Services using any means possible to collect intelligence of a given installation and operations where the target ADF member operates.
3. The Strategic and National Security element of such Special Operations is the key for International awareness and Intelligence information sharing within the Allied Intelligence community. Not only do these operations provide National security to Australia, but also to Allied/Coalition Forces in the form of wider Intelligence awareness of a given targeted country provided to our Allies.
4. Other Special Operations would also fall under electronic transmissions of deceptive communications manipulation, in order to confuse a given targeted Foreign Intelligence Service, of a given covert operation overseas. Deceptive Communications operations also add to the vital National and International Strategic interests of Allied Forces.

5. Inclusive of the above would those ADF personnel who serve as Communications Security (COMSEC) specialists, with access to high grade classified materials, codes and Electronic Keying Variables (EKV) from within a centralised Cryptographic Control Unit (CCU), or field Distribution for a given theatre or Operation. This includes Field Exercises during peacetime, as Foreign SIGINT services will attempt to exploit ADF and Allied communications traffic, procedures and tactical information.

6. It is therefore contended that a high level of Operational Communications Cryptographic and other Special Communications Operations are vital to Strategic and Field National and International Security. Service by personnel within these Special Operations environments deserve appropriate recognition in the form of an ASM clasp "SPECIAL OPS", as in similar context to RAN Submarines and SOCOM Operations.

7. Some specialist units are suggested for the purposes of recognition for the ASM Clasp SPECIAL OPS are listed (not restricted) of the following:

- a. Joint Telecommunications Units;
- b. Army Field Electronic Warfare units;
- c. RAAF P3-C Orion aircraft crew;
- d. HMA Ships on special intelligence tasks;
- e. 660 Signal Troop;
- f. Defence Signals Directorate;
- g. Defence Intelligence Organisation (DIO – Formerly Joint Intelligence Organisation (JIO)); and
- h. OP BRANCARD (HQSO).

8. Australia's Strategic assets combine to provide real time intelligence for rapid decision making and foreign policy. Under the auspices of the ASM SPECIAL OPS Gazette, it is understood that members may be placed in a degree of danger.



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Mr P.A. Copeland
PO Box 552
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Dear Mr Copeland *Copeland,*

I refer to your letter of 11 July 2002 concerning an award of the Australian Service Medal (ASM) with Clasp 'Special Ops'.

The Clasp 'Special Ops' to the Australian Service Medal (ASM) was established following a recommendation of the 1993/94 Committee of Inquiry into Defence and Defence Related Awards (CIDA). It was established on the basis that certain activities are conducted outside of a formal declaration of a warlike or non-warlike operation by the Minister for Defence. Due to the special nature of these activities, and the hazards and difficulties associated with them, an award was considered appropriate. Under Instruments of the ASM regulations, the Chief of the Defence Force (CDF) has the sole responsibility of specifying which activities will be awarded the Clasp 'Special Ops' and will only do so on recommendation of an appropriate Chief of Service.

In making these recommendations, the Chief of Service will take into account whether the service may be recognised by an existing award, the nature of the service and whether it falls within the doctrine of 'special operations'. Also, consideration is made against whether an activity is actually dangerous to individuals, or the only threat would be diplomatic backlash as a result of an activity being exposed, without any danger to the participants.

In your case, CDF has not specified any of the activities as qualifying service for the ASM with Clasp 'Special Ops'. Accordingly, there is no basis on which the award can be made. However, should you wish to pursue the matter, a submission should be made to Army Headquarters requesting that Chief of Army make recommendation to the Chief of the Defence Force for special consideration. In your case, it would be appropriate to put the submission through the Honorary Head of Corps, RASIGS.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil Churches".

NEIL CHURCHES
Lieutenant Colonel
Director Honours and Awards

NC August 2002

**COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA****DECLARATION AND DETERMINATION UNDER THE
AUSTRALIAN SERVICE MEDAL REGULATIONS**

I, **WILLIAM PATRICK DEANE**, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, pursuant to the Australian Service Medal Regulations contained in the Schedule to the Letters Patent dated 13 September 1988 ("the Regulations") on the recommendation of the Minister for Defence, hereby:

- (a) **revoke** the Declaration and Determination made on 31 October 1997 under regulation 3 and subregulation 4(2) respectively of the Regulations;
- (b) **declare** under regulation 3 of the Regulations, each special Australian Defence Force activity (being non-warlike operations) occurring on or after 14 February 1975 as is specified by the Chief of the Defence Force for the purposes of this declaration to be a prescribed operation for the purposes of those Regulations; and
- (c) **determine** under subregulation 4(2) of the Regulations, that the conditions for the award of the Australian Service Medal with Clasp "SPECIAL OPS" ("the Medal") in respect of each such operation are:
 - (i) the Medal may be awarded to a member of the Australian Defence Force who rendered service as such a member for a period which is not less than the minimum qualifying period specified by the Chief of the Defence Force in relation to the operation;
 - (ii) the Medal may be awarded to a person who rendered service as part of the Australian element of the *prescribed operation* which is not less than the minimum qualifying period specified by the Chief of the Defence in relation to the operation, and who, in accordance with a determination made by the Minister under paragraph 4(4)(b) of the Regulations, is in a class of persons who may be awarded the Medal with Clasp 'SPECIAL OPS';

- (iii) the qualifying period of service as described in subparagraph (c)(i) of this Instrument may be deemed by the Chief of the Defence Force or delegate to have been established notwithstanding that the member has not met the qualifying periods described if service in relation to the *prescribed operation* was terminated due to the death, evacuation due to illness or injury or other disability due to service.
- (d) **determine**, for the purposes of this determination, that a person is not eligible for an award of the Medal for service:
 - (i) during the same period in which that member renders service attracting a separate award of the Australian Active Service Medal or Australian Service Medal; or
 - (ii) where a separate award of the Australian Service Medal 1945-75 with Clasp 'SPECIAL OPS' has been awarded.

Dated *8th June* 2001



Governor-General

By His Excellency's Command



PETER REITH
Minister for Defence