



Australian Government

Defence Honours & Awards Tribunal

Inquiry into Unresolved Recognition Issues for the Battle of Long Tan

Terms of Reference

The Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal shall inquire into and report on unresolved concerns regarding individual awards for the Battle of Long Tan. In particular, the Tribunal is to consider claims concerning Australian Defence Force personnel who were recommended for recognition following the Battle of Long Tan.

On 14 August 2008, the Australian Government announced its response to the independent review of the Battle of Long Tan recognition. As part of its response the Government announced that “any other unresolved concerns regarding individual awards for Long Tan would be referred to the independent Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal.”

The Tribunal is to examine relevant documentary evidence, and consider the nature and context of the service, in relation to the criteria for Australian and Imperial awards that existed at that time, in order to arrive at a fair and sustainable response to claims for recognition.

The Tribunal may interview such persons as it considers appropriate and consider material provided to it that is relevant to these terms of reference.

The Tribunal is to report to the Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support on its findings in regard to the above and any recommendations that arise from the inquiry.

In making its findings and formulating its recommendations the Tribunal is required to maintain the integrity of the Australian honours system and identify any consequential impact any finding or recommendation may have on that system.

The Tribunal is to determine its own procedures, in accordance with the general principles of procedural fairness, when conducting its inquiry as set out in these Terms of Reference.

Submissions to the Tribunal close on Monday, 23 March 2009.