
Parliamentary Secretary for Defence – Inquiry into recognition of service with Operation GATEWAY concludes

21 March 2013

The Government has accepted the finding that there be no change to the existing provisions and policy approach to medallic recognition for Australian Defence Force members who served with Operation GATEWAY.

Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, Senator David Feeney said the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal (the Tribunal) found that the existing recognition is appropriate for Australian Defence Force members who served with Operation GATEWAY.

“Operation GATEWAY commenced in 1981 and is carried out by Royal Australian Air Force maritime patrol aircraft. The operation involves the conduct of maritime surveillance patrols over the Northern Indian Ocean and the South China Sea,” Senator Feeney said.

Royal Australian Air Force members who deployed on Operation GATEWAY prior to 31 December 1989 may be awarded the Australian Service Medal with Clasp ‘SE ASIA’ for this service, provided they are not also entitled to the Australian Service Medal 1945-75 with Clasp ‘SE ASIA’ for previous service in South-East Asia.

“The Australian Government accepts the Tribunal’s finding that these entitlements should not change, and this matter demonstrates the Government’s commitment to the independent review of Defence honours and awards issues,” Senator Feeney said.

In addition, the Tribunal has developed four principles to govern eligibility for awards in relation to Australian Defence Force service in South-East Asia from 1945 to the present. These are detailed in the Tribunal’s report.

The Tribunal’s full report is available at <http://defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au/>

More information on Defence honours and awards is available at <http://www.defence.gov.au/medals/>

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