



## **Australian Government**

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### **Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal**

## **INQUIRY INTO UNRESOLVED RECOGNITION FOR SERVICE WITH THE UNITED STATES ARMY SMALL SHIPS SECTION**

### **Terms of Reference**

The Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal (the Tribunal) is directed to inquire into and report on the eligibility of Australian personnel who served in the United States Army Small Ships Section from 1942 to receive the Australia Service Medal 1939-45 and or the Australian Service Medal 1945-75 with Clasp 'JAPAN'.

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

The Tribunal, in conducting this Inquiry, will take into account the findings of the previous inquiry on the matter of recognition for those who served on the United States Army Small Ships Section from 1942 to 1945, which was completed by the Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal in 2009 and the findings accepted by Government.

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.

The Tribunal is to report, in writing, to the Parliamentary Secretary for Defence on the findings and 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 and awards system and identify any consequential impact that any finding or recommendation may have on that system.

Submissions to the Tribunal close on Friday 16 August 2013.