



THE HON. DR MIKE KELLY AM MP Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support

Thursday, 8 July 2010

31/10

Defence Honours and Awards tribunal report into eligibility for the Vietnam medal

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon Dr Mike Kelly AM MP, today announced that the Government has accepted the recommendations of the independent Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal inquiry into the eligibility of Royal Australian Air Force personnel, serving in Vietnam between 29 March 1975 and 29 April 1975, for the Vietnam Medal.

The Report recommended:

1. the service rendered by the RAAF personnel of Detachment S, in Vietnam between 29 March and 29 April 1975, not be recognised as service falling within the intent and express terms of the Royal Warrant for the Vietnam Medal;
2. the Australian Government takes no action to recommend to the Government of the United Kingdom that the period of service for the Vietnam Medal be extended to include the service rendered by the RAAF members of Detachment S, who rendered service in Vietnam between 29 March and 29 April 1975;
3. the service rendered by the RAAF members of Detachment S in Vietnam between 29 March and 29 April 1975 has been appropriately recognised with the award of the Australian Active Service Medal with Clasp 'VIETNAM 1975'; and
4. that no other award be considered for RAAF members of Detachment S as a result of their service in Vietnam between 29 March and 29 April 1975.

"The release of this report fulfils a Government election commitment to review this service," said Dr Kelly.

"I acknowledge the former members of Detachment S who served in Vietnam in 1975 may be disappointed by these recommendations. I commend them on the manner in which they performed their duties with the utmost professionalism."

"The inquiry into this matter and the Tribunal's report demonstrates the Government's commitment to the independent review of long-standing Defence honours and awards issues."

The Tribunal's full report is available at www.defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au. Further information on Defence honours and awards is available at: www.defence.gov.au/medals/

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