



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

Friday, 5 September 2008

036/2008

### DEFENCE HONOURS AND AWARDS TRIBUNAL INQUIRY INTO RECOGNITION FOR SERVICE WITH THE UNITED STATES ARMY SMALL SHIPS SECTION DURING WORLD WAR II

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon Dr Mike Kelly AM MP, announced today that the recently established Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal will inquire into recognition for service with the United States (US) Army Small Ships Section during World War II.

“The conduct of this inquiry fulfils an election commitment to review this long standing recognition issue from World War II as a matter of priority,” said Dr Kelly.

The US Army Small Ships Section was established during 1942 to move ships and supplies in the South West Pacific during World War II. Australians who served with the US Small Ships are eligible for US awards but have sought Imperial recognition for their service.

Dr Kelly said that a call for submissions will be released shortly in the national press. The Tribunal will also contact organisations and individuals with an interest in the issue.

“Many people have written to me concerning eligibility issues associated with recognition for service with the US Army Small Ships Section during World War II and I would encourage them to now take advantage of this opportunity to make a submission,” Dr Kelly said.

The Tribunal can be contacted at:

Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal  
Locked Bag 7765  
CANBERRA BUSINESS CENTRE ACT 2610

Or via email to [DHA.Tribunal@defence.gov.au](mailto:DHA.Tribunal@defence.gov.au)

The terms of reference for the inquiry can be obtained at: [www.defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au](http://www.defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au)

**Further Information:**

## **Terms of Reference**

### **Inquiry into Recognition for Service with the United States Army Small Ships Section**

The Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal shall inquire into and report on the eligibility of Australian civilian personnel who served in the United States Army Small Ships Section, between 1942 to 1945, to receive Australian or Imperial recognition for that service.

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 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.

#### **Media contacts:**

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