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3 May, 2022

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Submission to Inquiry - Colonel (RETD) Garry Cook

Part 1 – Name of Inquiry

Name of Inquiry *

INQUIRY INTO MEDALLIC RECOGNITION FOR SERVICE WITH RIFLE COMPANY BUTTERWORTH

Part 2 – About the Submitter

Title or Rank *

Colonel (RETD)

Surname *

Cook

Given Names *

Garry

Postal Address *

[REDACTED]

Email Address: *

[REDACTED]

Primary Contact Number *

[REDACTED]

Secondary Contact Number

[REDACTED]

Is the Submission on behalf of an organisation? If yes, please provide details:

no

Part 3 – Desired outcome

Provide a summary of your submission:

Summary During my tour of duty at ABB I felt in serious danger when patrolling around the airfield boundary particularly during the night alone with only a wire fence protecting me from the Enemy. Our Armour protection consisted being locked in the Armour during the night to ensure that any attackers were unable to take or destroy the munitions stored. We were fully supplied with live ammunition to complete this task if necessary. Our Barracks was only 50M from the fence line and was well in line with a shoot and scoot attack. I believed that were were on Warlike service

Part 4 - Your submission and Supporting Documentation

File Attached: RCB-TRIBUNAL-TESTIMONY-3.docx

Part 5 – Consent and declaration

☒ I consent to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal making my submission publicly available.

✓ I also consent to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal:

- using information contained in my submission to conduct research;
- providing a copy of my submission to a person or organisation considered by the Tribunal to be appropriate; and
- providing a copy of my submission to a person or organisation the subject of adverse comment in the submission;
- using content in my submission in its report to Government.

The Tribunal will decide which person or organisation is appropriate, and this may include:

1. persons or organisations required to assist with the inquiry; and
2. persons or organisations with an interest in the inquiry.

✓ I declare that the information I have provided is correct.

Name

Garry Cook

Date

03/05/2022 /

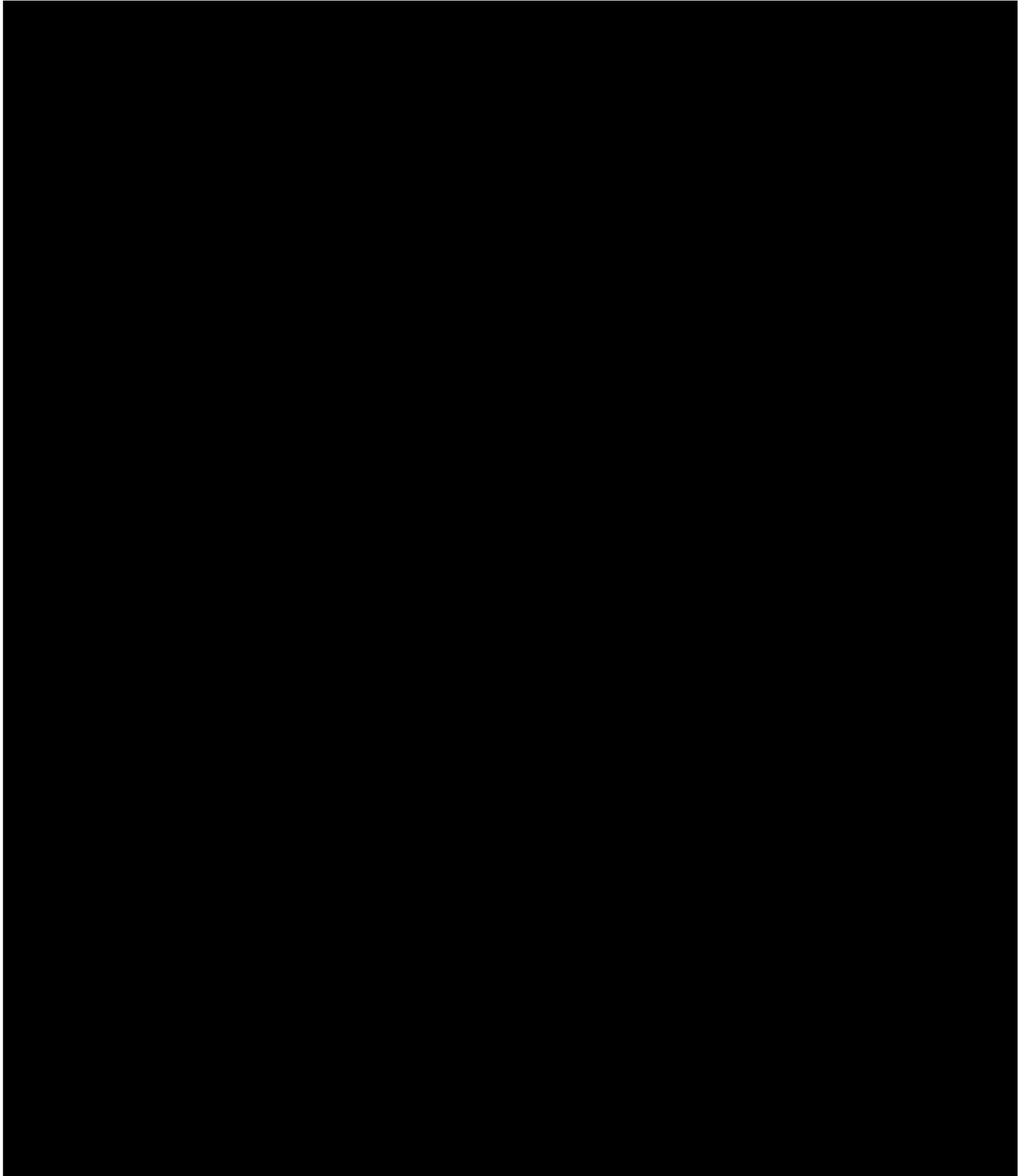
*Colonel (RETD) Garry
Cook*

Signed by Colonel (RETD) Garry Cook

Signed on: 3 May, 2022

Signature Certificate

Document name: Submission to Inquiry - Colonel (RETD) Garry Cook



RCB SERVICE TESTIMONY

General outline

During 1971/73 I was a National Servicemen, in 1972/73 I was posted to 6RAR at Kangaw barracks who were part of the 26 ANZUK Bde located in Singapore,

On the 13Jan1973 D Coy was tasked to provide protective security to Air Base Butterworth (ABB) in north west Malaysia as part of a rotation Coy within the Bde. This was an ongoing task from 1970 until the end of 1973 when Australia withdrew its participation in ANZUK.

Briefing prior to departure at Kangaw Barracks Singapore

In early Jan73 the Coy was briefed by the CO of 6RAR on its deployment and tasks which will be performed during its deployment.

The CO Lt Col Drab sch at the time briefed us on the following

- The Enemy threat
- The increased penalties which will apply under the Defence and Army Act during the deployment
- The effort He was working on to have the service at ABB upgraded and,
- Likely tasks and danger.

Enemy

The Enemy was described as (Vietcong like) who were operating within the area and provide a possible threat to ABB and the RAAF personnel and Families in Penang. This had been demonstrated in a number of incidents within the region within the very recent times in Malaysia and that the Malaysian Army was in contact within 10-15Kms from the base and were using ABB as a base for that employment.

Danger

I was in no doubt that we were now operating at a higher level of danger than when based in Singapore with live ammunition, Rules of Engagement (ROE), Quick reaction force, (QRF) briefings and Orders indicating possible engagement with the Enemy.

As a private Soldier at that time I was not privy to documents etc which have come to light later which clearly indicated that we were in much more clear and present danger than we were told. I felt in serious danger when patrolling around the airfield boundary particularly during the night alone with only a wire fence protecting me from the Enemy.

Tasks

My duties whilst at ABB were inside boundary patrolling, Armory protection and securing other vital assets e.g. Aircraft and RAAF personnel.

Summary

During my tour of duty at ABB I felt in serious danger when patrolling around the airfield boundary particularly during the night alone with only a wire fence protecting me from the Enemy. Our Armour protection consisted being locked in the Armour during the night to ensure that any attackers were unable to take or destroy the munitions stored. We were fully supplied with live ammunition to complete this task if necessary.

50th Anniversary



RIFLE COMPANY BUTTERWORTH

Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF) congratulates Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB) for its 50th anniversary of establishment in Malaysia.

Your presence and sacrifice here in Malaysian soil in protecting the RMAF Butterworth base during the resurgence of the communist insurgency in 1970-1989 was a remarkable contribution and had always been the highlight of your presence here in Malaysia.

Since then, the cooperation and the desire to further develop the friendly relations continue to grow, in preparing for more challenging future ahead.

May the long historical defence collaboration between MAF and Australia Defence Force will further strengthen and expand beyond the bilateral scope and more importantly under the auspices of the Five Power Defence Arrangements and the Malaysia Australia Joint Defence Program in providing a better future for the subsequent generations.



GENERAL TAN SRI DATO' SRI HJ AFFENDI BIN BUANG RMAF
CHIEF OF DEFENCE FORCE



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