

SUBMISSION TO INQUIRY

This form must cover a submission to the inquiry

Name of Inquiry

About the Submitter

Title or Rank:

Surname:

Given Names:

Postal Address:

Email Address:

Preferred contact number:
Mobile:
Home or other:

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

Desired Outcome

Attached

Provide a summary of your submission.

Please attach your submission and any supporting documentation



Consent and Declaration

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

~~I do not consent to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal making my submission publicly available. My reasons are:~~


2 I also consent to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal:
a. using information contained in my submission to conduct research;
b. providing a copy of my submission to a person or organisation considered by the Tribunal to be appropriate;
c. providing a copy of my submission to a person or organisation the subject of adverse comment in the submission; and
d. using content in my submission in its report to Government.

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

- a. persons or organisations required to assist with the inquiry; and
- b. persons or organisations with an interest in the inquiry.

I declare that the information I have provided is correct.

Signature:



Print name:

Chris Brettingham-Moore

Date:

14/7/2022

Lodging your submission

Further information, including the inquiry's Terms of Reference can be found at www.defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au

Once you are satisfied with your submission, return this form and all supporting documents

By Post:


Defence Honours and Awards
Appeals Tribunal
Level 1, 5 Tennant Street, Fyshwick
Locked Bag 7765
CANBERRA BC ACT 2600

By Email:

dha.tribunal@defence.gov.au

If you wish to speak with someone regarding your submission phone **02 6266 1019**

Chris Brettingham-Moore


14 June 2022

Defence Honours & Awards Appeals Tribunal

Tribunal Inquiry to the Medallic Recognition for service with Rifle Company Butterworth.

Dear Sir or Madam

I was deployed to Air Base Butterworth (ABB) from December 1981 to March 1982 with 6 Platoon, B Company, 2/4 RAR. I was 19 years old, and my position was as rifleman. Commensurate with the threat, B Company was deployed to ABB at full strength with additional medical and specialist support.

Prior to deployment, we were provided with briefings on the threat from armed communist insurgents, including their tactics, weapons, and likely targets, including ABB. In the context of this threat, our pre deployment training focused on Counter Insurgency (COIN) actions, operating in, and clearing buildings and areas occupied by civilians. In addition to the training and briefing, significant time was spent ensuring we understood the rules of engagement (ROE) and the legal requirements around this (particularly as we deployed to a foreign country). I clearly recall the requirement to memorize in the local language "stop or I will shoot" (Behenti atau saya akan tembak) and be able to say this three times (quickly) before opening fire.

Prior to our deployment, each soldier was required to complete personal documents that would be used in the event of injury or death, this included ensuring a will was complete (or acknowledgement this was declined).

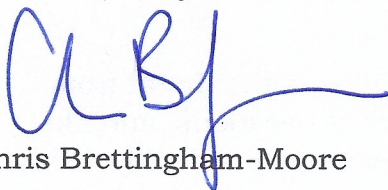
On arrival at ABB, each section QRF conducted familiarisation training on the layout of ABB including likely vulnerable points on the perimeter and sensitive installations. Further training on rules of engagement and clearing and securing buildings was included in the QRF workup. The role of the QRF was in the event of an attack on ABB, to attack and repel/kill the enemy, as authorized under our rules of engagement – this is why live ammunition was issued.

All our training for ABB involved significantly greater amounts of live firing than in Australia for the Operational Deployment Force (which was the ADF primary warfighting capability at the time). The level and intensity of this training along with rotational duty as the QRF was well beyond what I had experienced in peacetime service.

The notion that deployment to RCB was “peacetime service” because the Rules of Engagement only applied within ABB is wrong – it is like making a distinction in awards for troops who were deployed to Camp Holland in Tarin Kowt but did not go outside the wire and others that did. All troops were awarded the medal/recognized as warlike service, notwithstanding the difference in threat and risk either side of the wire.

Thank you for your consideration

Yours sincerely



Chris Brettingham-Moore