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23 June, 2022

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Submission to Inquiry - Mister Ricky Ian Karaitiana

Part 1 – Name of Inquiry

Name of Inquiry *

Medallic recognition for service with Rifle Company Butterworth

Part 2 – About the Submitter

Title or Rank *

Mister

Surname *

Karaitiana

Given Names *

Ricky Ian

Postal Address *

[REDACTED]

Email Address: *

[REDACTED]

Primary Contact Number *

[REDACTED]

Secondary Contact Number

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

No

Part 3 – Desired outcome

Provide a summary of your submission:

For my service on two tours of Rifle Company Butterworth Air Base to be recognised as warlike for that period in Malaysia and upgraded to active service.

Part 4 - Your submission and Supporting Documentation

File Attached: Testimony-of-an-RCB-Veteran.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

Ricky Karaitiana

Date

23/06/2022 /

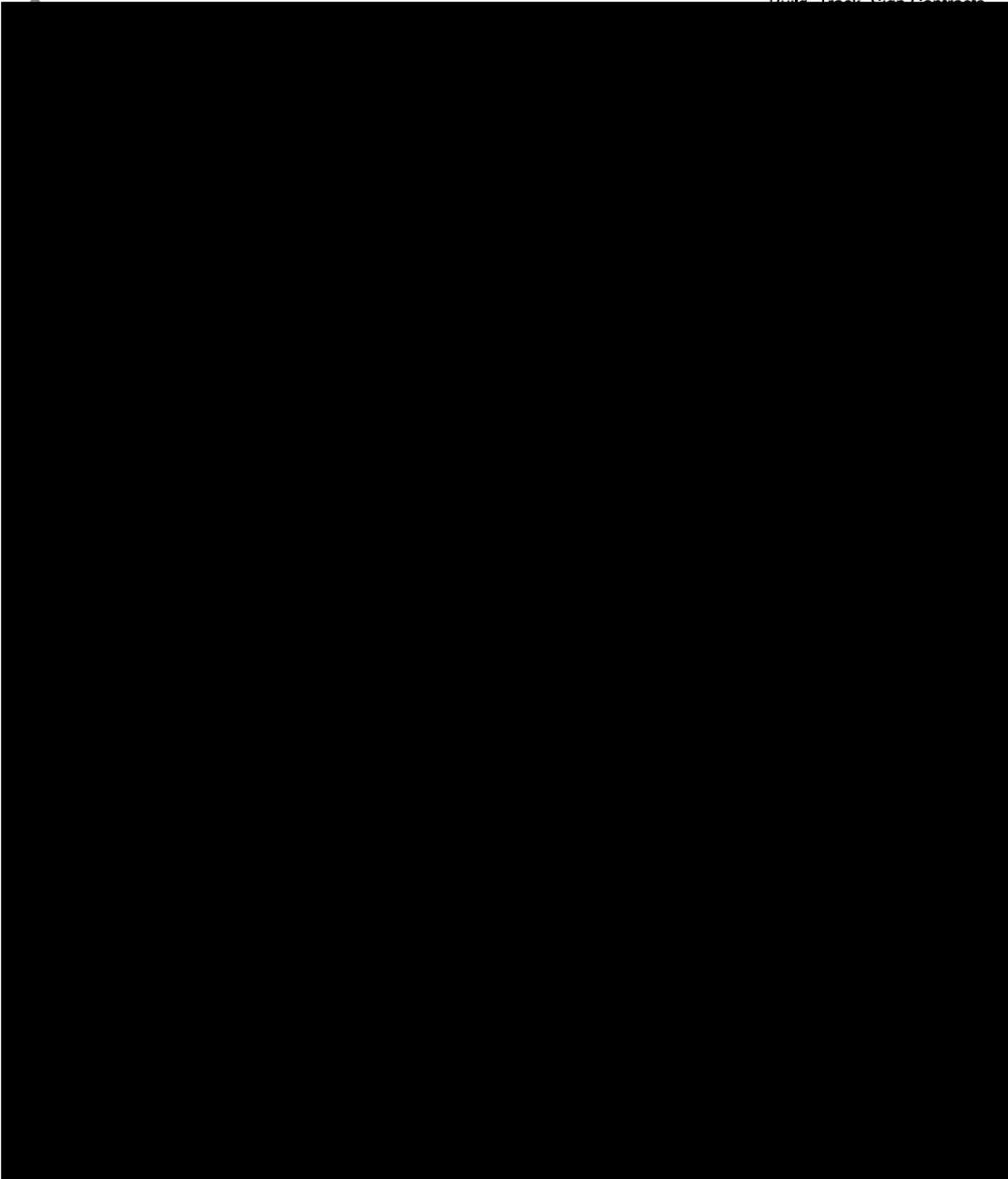
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Karaitiana', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Signed by Mister Ricky Ian Karaitiana

Signed on: 23 June, 2022

Signature Certificate

Document name: Submission to Inquiry - Mister Ricky Ian Karaitiana



RCB SERVICE TESTIMONY

RCB/RAAF Butterworth Service Summary

I served with 9 Platoon, C Company 2/4 RAR at Air Base Butterworth as a member of an RCB in 1983. At the time, I was 180234 Lance Corporal Ricky Karaitiana. My primary task was second in command of a rifle section. My normal weapon was an SLR while the rest of the company carried their normal small arms weapons required for operational service. The company's heavy weapons were also readily available along with ammunition on base. While on QRF duties, section machine guns with live rounds were routinely deployed. I also served another tour with Support Company 6 RAR in 1985 as a member of Anti-armour Platoon with very similar duties and carrying of similar weapons with live rounds.

Pre deployment Training

We as a company were required to meet DP1 status and were paraded to show we had all the equipment to meet (Deployment preparedness level 1).

Enemy

Before deployments on both tours we were briefed that we would be protecting the air base and on war service and that we would have to have an up to date will. I was clearly of the understanding that there was an enemy threat to the base on both my tours. Also, I was charged for a military offence whilst at RCB in 1985 and I was awarded punishment that was above what I would have received back in Australia and told the reason for this was because we were on war service.

Danger

We carried live ammunition when on QRF duty. We were given rules of engagement both tours. There was a perception of danger instilled in us as we were briefed by the Air Force Police that the Malaysian Guards were trigger happy because of the insurgency happening at the time. If confronted at night or frightened by accident, we had to be very careful when conducting ground force security operations around them as they could be unpredictable. QRF duties included random callouts by the Duty Air Force Officer at any hour. We would also check on key points and installations on the Air Base as a part of our duties utilising vehicles and searchlights. We always had a machine gun with live ammunition on our truck conducting these checks.

Expectation of Casualties

Both tours in 1983 and 1985, I expected that there was a chance of casualties as the base could have been attacked at any time during the well documented second emergency.

Training with the Malaysians

We never trained at all with the Malaysians at the Air Base. Both tours we only deployed in the jungle for very short periods and always had troops back at the Air Base in case it was attacked. My belief is that our commanders did not want us to be away from the Air Base for long periods as this would leave the base vulnerable to attack with only a small Australian force to defend it.

Actual tasks

I am of the firm belief that the only reason we were there was to protect the Air base in case of attack and not training as the Government at the time and the Army led us to believe. This to me was an operational deployment under the guise of training with a foreign force.

I am prepared to give this and possible further oral evidence if given the opportunity to appear before an independent inquiry (personally or by telephone).

Name: Ricky Karaitiana **Email:** [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]