



SUBMISSION TO INQUIRY

This form must cover a submission to the inquiry

Name of Inquiry: RCB DHAAS INQUIRY

About the Submitter

Title or Rank: MR (WO1)

Surname: HOLTF

Given Names: BRADFORD EARNE

Postal Address: [REDACTED]

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Preferred contact number: Mobile: [REDACTED]
Home or other: [REDACTED]

Is the Submission on behalf of an organisation? If yes, please provide details: This is a personal Submission.

Desired Outcome

Provide a summary of your submission.

See Attachment.

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:

[Handwritten Signature]

Print name:

BRAND WOLFF

Date:

27 June 22

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**



From: [Brad Wolff](#)
To: [DHA Tribunal](#)
Subject: RCB DHAAT INQUIRY 1 Jul 22
Date: Tuesday, 28 June 2022 1:57:02 PM
Attachments: [DOC270622-27062022072122.pdf](#)

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G'day DHAAT Inquire Personnel,

This is my submission in reference to Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB).

My name is Bradford Earl Wolff (Regt Details 316578), I joined Australian Defence Force (Army) May 1973. After Basic Training at Kapooka, and Initial Employment Training at Singleton, I was posted to 3rd Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment (3 RAR) at Woodside, South Australia, Oct 1973. My first position at 3 RAR was as a Rifleman (ECN 343) in 2 Platoon, A Company and soon after arrival was advised that A Company was to be sent to Butterworth Malaysia to be part of the ongoing Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB) detachment that was to be based at the RAAF/RMAF Base as Ground Defence. We arrived at RCB for our rotation on 27/11/1973 and returned to Adelaide on 03/03/1974.

My primary role in 2 Pl was as a Section Rifleman and my normal weapon was the L1A1 Self Loading Rifle (SLR) and the rest of my section carried the small arm weapon appropriate to their position within the section – M16, Bren Gun and M79 Grenade Launcher. The company's heavy weapons and ammunition were available while we were on base in Butterworth; and when on duty as Quick Reaction Force (QRF) we carried live ammunition. Before we deployed to RCB we attended a jungle training course at Jungle Training Centre Canungra to familiarise us with conditions similar to

what was expected in Malaysia. As part of pre-deployment administration, the South Australian Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB) was called in to give an insight of what a high calibre ammunition can do to a human body on impact. Actual crime scene photographs were provided by CIB prior to deployment to Butterworth. We were required to complete a Will which was sent to Central Army Records (CARO) in Melbourne. We also had to pack all our equipment (DP1) to take with us, ensuring that we would not be requiring anything to be issued while at Butterworth.

Upon arrival at Butterworth, the first few days was orientation of the base, was carried out and lectures was provided in reference to areas we were not to visit, photographs of known Communist personnel and live footage of Malaysian Armed Forces patrols, engaging with the Enemy (En) and what we were to expect when contact was made whilst in country. We were advised if any soldiers that were Charged disobeying an order, the Punishment awarded were the same as those in War. We were briefed that whenever we left the Base, to ensure we were always accompanied by members of the company. When departing the Base, you could see the Malaysian Guards at the gates carried loaded weapons, which was a stark reminder that not everything was peaceful in Malaysia.

Every time we were rostered for QRF, we were given a full orders group including Rules of Engagement (ROE) which told us why and when we were to load our weapons and what actions we were to take if required. - up to and including the use of lethal force if we were fired upon. We were to treat each deployment of the QRF as if there had been a breach of the Base Perimeter which had warning signs inscribed " Stop in English and Malay" and a drawing of a Soldier's Rifle shooting a human. Whilst at RCB we conducted weapons training, patrolling and Riot Control where the Platoon (PL) would go into a "Box Formation" one soldier (Marksman) would be

loaded with live ammunition and the rest of the PL with blanks and a spare Magazine containing 20 rounds of live ammunition in their basic pouch if required. The PL Commander would provide information on the target and on his command we all would fire. This training was carried out within the confines of the Base, we did not do any training with any Malaysian defence Forces during our deployment to RCB. We completed live firing of 9mm pistol and completed a live firing of section weapons at a Firing Range that we had to travel to by vehicle which was a considerable distance from the Base – while we were in transit to the Firing Range each vehicle carried live ammunition for our section weapons. At night whilst the Platoon slept there was roving Picquets on duty and their weapons were in the Loaded Condition.

With all the loaded weapons being carried at the Base, which convinced us that we were not as safe as we had expected to be – even though the briefings we had before departure from Australia and when we arrived, it did not fully prepare us for what we found when we arrived. I consider that the duties we actually did at RCB is definitely in line with what is expected of a member of the ADF, but is not what we were told or expected. As per the Official Secrets Act we signed, nothing of what occurred at RCB has been relayed in any medium by me, other than in this submission.

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

Regards

Brad Wolff

Email: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]