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27 February, 2023

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Submission to Inquiry - Mr Stephen Winthrop

Part 1 – Name of Inquiry

Name of Inquiry *

Stephen Winthrop

Part 2 – About the Submitter

Title or Rank *

Mr

Given Names *

Stephen

Surname *

Winthrop

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Secondary Contact Number

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

Part 3 – Desired outcome

Provide a summary of your submission:

Reply to Defence submission 096b

Part 4 - Your submission and Supporting Documentation

File Attached: It-seems-some-people-in-Defence-have-succumb-to-a-fact-free-virus.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.

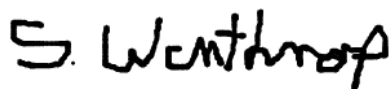
✓ I declare that the information I have provided is correct.

Name

Stephen Winthrop

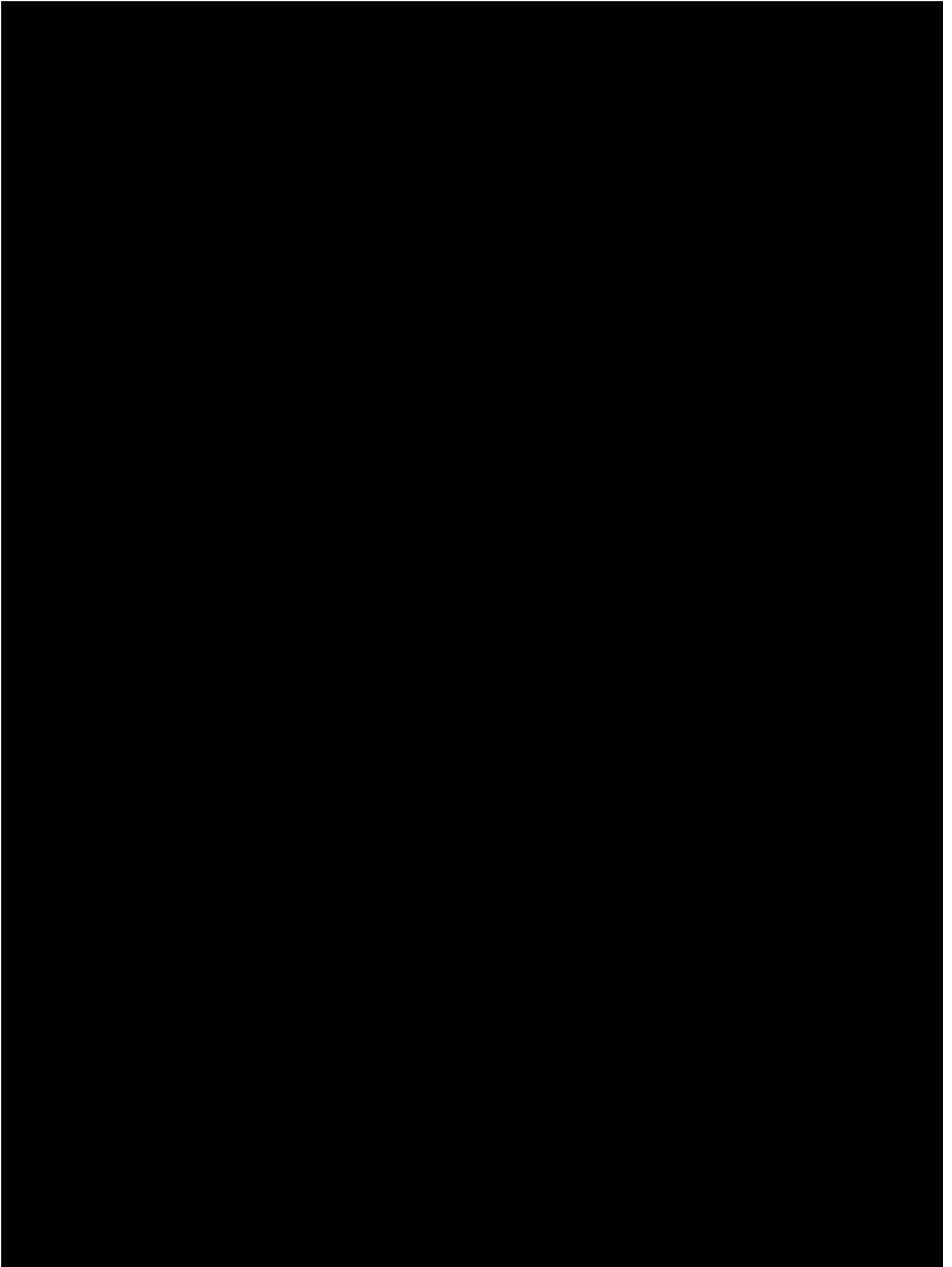
Date

27/02/2023



Signed by Mr Stephen Winthrop

Signed on: 27 February, 2023



Reply to Defence submission 96b.

1. It seems some people in Defence have succumb to a fact free virus, which limits people's ability to recognize facts or reject their ability to include facts in their arguments. They deny the facts even when they are presented to them.
2. Their interpretations of the facts in relation to if RCB meets the definition on Warlike is amusing at best. This fact free virus hindered their ability to insert the fact that RCB was Warlike or did they leave them out because it did not fit their flawed narrative they wanted to portray.
3. Is there any logic in the following statement, as Defence claim RCB was sent to Malaysia for training.
 - a. Defence sent RCB combat troops to a country for training, when there was a Communist Insurgency War happening in that country.
 - b. Defence sent us to Malaysia to train with Malaysian troops in the jungle, but Malaysian troops were in the jungle fighting the Communist Insurgency.
 - c. They sent combat troops to Malaysia for training with full front line ammunition which was carried all the time on duty.
 - d. Defence sent us to Malaysia for training with ROE which permitted us to use lethal force without approval from a higher level, and being able to use deadly force without being in danger
 - e. Defence sent us to Malaysia with the legal right and agreement of Malaysia that we could use lethal force against Malaysians and without prosecution in their courts if that happen.

Of course the above is not logical that Defence sent RCB to Malaysia for training.

Defence academic view used to justify their narrative on what happened between 1970 and 1989 does not match what was happening on the ground, Defence can come up with their retro fitted arguments, and that is all they are, Defence should listen to the people who were there and lived through the Insurgency, people who witness the insurgency, people who sat in the intelligence briefing. RCB knew first-hand what was going on. RCB understood the difference between political talk and what was really happening on the ground.

Let's look at some of Defence assertion why RCB was not Warlike, and the effect of the fact free virus which stopped Defence including certain facts which did not support their flawed narrative.

An identified intent to directly target ADF personnel.

4. Defence 2.37, b 'There are no reports of any intent to directly target ADF personnel on or off duty or RAAF families.

What a stupid thing for Defence to say, did Defence think the Ct's would write an open letter identifying their intended targets. The Ct's never reported their intent to attack any military bases, which they did attack.

Butterworth was right in the middle of a Communist Insurgency, it was directly involved in the Insurgency

- a. SECRET Department of AIR Brief, 546/8/28 Current Assessment, The CTO have given instructions to its underground organisation in Peninsular Malaysia to carry out rockets attacks against air bases. There is no denying ADF people were on a Malaysian air base, which instructions were issued to rocket attack, there is no mention Butterworth was excluded.

That sounds like a direct intent to attack Butterworth which had ADF personnel on

- b. Don't forget the Ground Defence Operational Centre and RCB activated due to ground threats to Butterworth. They are reported threats to Butterworth and ADF personnel are on Butterworth. Clearly there was an identified intent to target Butterworth, threats were issued against Butterworth and ADF personnel were on Butterworth.
5. Defence 2.37, c. The ADF, including RCB and RAAF aircraft, were not authorised to be involved in internal Malaysian affairs, or in support of Malaysian authorities conducting military operations.
- RCB was a Quick Reaction Force to counter any Communist attack or penetration on Butterworth, and this was with agreement with the Malaysian Government under the Shared Defence Plan.
 - The fact free virus at work again, RCB was in support of conducting military operations, by providing a QRF at Butterworth to protect Malaysian Vital Points in their war against the Insurgency, this allowed Malaysia to release more combat troops for operations.
 - Again if we look at what was happening on the ground instead at some retro fitted argument to fill Defence flawed narrative. RCB was more involved than just in support of operations. RCB was providing the Malaysian defence role in protecting Butterworth from an Insurgency penetration, that made us directly involved in Malaysian war against the Communist Insurgency.
6. Defence 2.37 d. This just rehashes points a,b,and c except 'RCB security task was limited to the gazetted area of the Air Base Butterworth' Are Defence serious in using this as an argument why RCB was not warlike. What has the size of the operational area got to with if it was warlike or not, could Defence please show us were it says to be warlike the operational area must be a certain area in size'
This just show how phatic the reasons Defence has to go in their flawed narrative.
7. Defence 2.37 e. Again it rehashes earlier points except "not to be involved in local disturbances and RCB did not undertake authorised offensive patrols outside the confines of ABB, also There are records of training activities in designated training areas"
- Defence is well aware that there was an evacuation plan in place to escort Australian NZ and GB civilians from Penang and surrounding areas during civil unrest back to ABB for evacuation. A document said we we're not to be involved in civil unrest unless we needed to carry out our duties.
 - Surely Defence must be tired of quoting this meaningless statement of not authorised to undertake offensive patrols outside the base, because our operational area was inside the base. We all know this was a political decision, not to work outside the wire.
- This is Defences normal tactic to divert your eyes from the real role of the QRF inside the fence.

Ministerial Brief October, 1975 In view of the heightened possibility of a CTO attack on RAAF assets, I recommend discussions on the following issue with the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

- A request to allocate at least one Battalion to the area immediately surrounding Butterworth for area **DEFENCE**.
- Arrangements for ARA and RAAF forces to operate outside the Base to **DEFEND** their assets in conjunction with Malaysian forces.
- Approval to reinforce Butterworth at short notice with RAAF ground defence forces including ARA to assist with the **DEFENCE** of operational assets, personnel and equipment.
- The Ministerial Brief makes it very clear there was a need to work outside the wire to defend Butterworth's assets which included both Australian and Malaysian assets, but there was political reasons why the Minister declined to follow JIO request to operate outside the wire.

Could DHAAT ask why Defence has not presented this documents in any of their submissions

Defence 2.37 f [Authorised to use force to pursue military objective, and RCB ROE were defensive, which included the right to self-defence.](#)

This is just another Defences denial of the facts, this fact free virus is interfering with the truth again.

- a. If ROE were for our own self-defence then all we would need to carry was a 9mm Browning pistol, but no, defence considered we needed full front line weapons and ammunition for our self-defence, weapons like M16 which fires 850 rounds a minute, the M60 which fires a 7.62 round, and 650 rounds a minute it is an area weapon, and if you get hit by one of these you are torn to pieces. Strange weapons to carry for self-defence, when a 9mm pistol would be satisfactory. There is no logic in these weapons were only for self-defence. To be used in a fire fight with the enemy YES.
- b. The position of the Armscote, why was the Armscote situated with RCB? Normally ammunition, grenades, anti-tank weapons are stored in a bunker in an isolated area, A simple reason so they could be immediately issued in the event of a penetration.
- c. Defence have been handed documents by RCB and they do have them which show ROE went beyond self-defence, Why are Defence in denial of the truth? RCB did not need approval to open fire from a higher authority. RCB did not have to wait to be in a self- defence situation to open fire, it clearly states that in documents given to Defence. Sounds like Defence are in a conspiracy to hide the truth, These documents have been given to DHAAT in other submissions so there is no need to provide them again in this submission.
- d. This continued down playing of the ROE is a bit tiering “if in doubt don’t shoot” all this silly little statement means, if in doubt don’t shoot, It does not mean you cannot open fire it does not alter the fact that you did not have to be in a self-defence situation, we all knew that there were civilians on the air base and care should be taken, but it did not alter the fact we could open fire without it being a self-defence situation.

Defence 2.40 [The carriage of live ammunition is explained in records for safety and other purposes including wild animals threats.](#)

- a. We carried live ammunition all the time while on duty at Butterworth, and as far as I know there was never a sighting of a tiger at Butterworth so that rules out the need to carry live ammunitions for wild animals at Butterworth.
Than we must have carried live ammunition for safety at ABB, why did we need to carry live ammunition for safety at ABB, could it be that there was a threat, that would be a good reason to carry live ammunition
- b. Defence has not explained the other reasons why we carried live ammunition while on duty,
- c. Could Defence enlighten us as to what the other purpose was for,

Where are these records, are they a figment of Defence imagination.

If Defence was honest they would tell you the carriage of ball ammunition on field training was for encounters with wild animals or Belligerents. (Belligerent: Hostile Forces)

Why did Defence take a conscious decision to leave out the word Belligerents?

Why do Defence keep rejecting the facts when they are put in front of them, they pretend they do not exist, it is their own documents they are in denial off. RCB on numerus occasions have given these document to defence, and yet they pretend they do not exist. What does that tell you about Defence?

Let's take a closer look at the 1975 Ministerial Brief a bit closer, it just destroys Defence's argument that RCB was just there for training, again this fact free virus denies Defence the ability to recognise any document that does not fit their flawed narrative. It may be worse, it may be intentional.

In a worsening security situation, it may be necessary to seek Malaysian Government approval to reinforce Butterworth with RAAF ground forces defence and ARA personnel to assist in the defence of RAAF assets.

In view of the heightened possibility of CTO attacks on RAAF assets, I recommend discussions on the following issues with the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

- a. A request to allocate at least one Battalion to the area immediately surrounding Butterworth for area defence.
- b. Arrangements for ARA and RAAF forces to operate outside the base to defend their assets in conjunction with Malaysian forces.
- c. Approval to reinforce Butterworth at short notice with RAAF ground defence forces including ARA to assist in the defence of operational assets, personnel and equipment.

This just makes a mockery of defence submission on many fronts.

- a. Defence unbelievable statement "There was no war or emergency after June 1966"
- b. Defence unbelievable statement "There was no threat to Butterworth" then why did Defence want a battalion surrounding Butterworth for area Defence.
- c. There was no mention of training with the Malaysian army, but to work in conjunction with the Malaysian forces to defend Butterworth.
- d. Defence considered there was a need to have ARA on standby at short notice from Australia to reinforce Butterworth due to the worsening security situation.
- c. Defence still make this unbelievable claim everything was hunky dory at Butterworth just like garrison duty back in Australia, **and pigs mite fly.**

8. Defence cannot see any document which does not support their narrative.

- a. Chief of Staff meeting Agendum 24/1973 Minute No 28/1973
CAS considered that the AOC Butterworth should have appropriate authority to control the use of the Company for protection of the RAAF Base, as this was the primary task.
- b. Defence 96b Submission page 47, 5b Defence did not agree that RCB was there to protect AAB, but we have the Chiefs of Staff Committee say the Company was there for the protection ABB and it was their primary task.

Why do Defence disagree with the COS Committee, they were the ones who sent us there. Is not the word of the Chief of Staff good enough for Defence, why does defence think the COS Committee are not telling the truth, or maybe it does not fit Defence flawed narrative.

c. Minutes from Defence Committee 1973, classified Secret.

The training purpose was used as a RUSE, any communication about the role would be strictly on a need to know basis. It cannot be any clearer, the training was a ruse (a Lie) straight from the Defence Committee themselves. **It appears the Defence Committee words are not good enough.**

9. Defence use their well-developed tactic to portray/betray RCB as peacetime service.

That is to use red herring, bring in statements and information not relevant to RCB, and Defence had 100's and 100's of pages in their last submission, and their favourite tactic off leaving out any document which does not support their narrative, and likes to Defence down play the situations as with ROE, and threat levels.

a. *There is no record of RCB being involved in contact with any hostile forces.*

A statement used to say we were peacetime service. Defence know the truth behind this statement. How about Defence withdraw any AASM given to anybody who were not in contact with hostile forces, like Ubon, Diego Garcia, Rwanda, Namibia, and the list goes on and on.

It is dishonest of Defence to use this argument to imply RCB was peacetime.

Defence are just too frighten to compare operations, because it would weaken or destroy their argument.

The sad thing is Defence knows the truth behind their false narrative, but they still use them.

b. *RCB was not to be involved in any internal Malaysian affairs.*

Is Defence trying to say that RCB being a Quick Reaction Force, which was used to defend Malaysian vital points in their war, and on their forward operational air base, defending against a Communist Insurgency attack, and that we were taking the place of Malaysian troops to defend a Malaysian air base.

Does Defence think this is staying out of Malaysian affairs. I have notice Defence does not go into details of the duties of the QRF.

c. *2.37 e There are records of training activities in designated training areas.*

What a silly little statement used to imply RCB was peacetime, Defence know Infantry always train even on a warlike operation as in Vietnam, Afghanistan, and again I could go on. Defence must be ashamed to have dig this low to find statements to imply RCB was peacetime. Did Defence think we were not training in training areas.

That is all Defences can do, use red herring to try and portray RCB as peacetime service.

d. *No. 4 RAAF Hospital was not established because of an increased external threat from an Australian adversary.*

Another silly little statement to imply why RCB was peacetime service. What has that got to do with anything, are Defence trying to imply the only reason a hospital is built is if there is a war

Those members of DHAAT who live in Canberra may be aware that Royal Canberra Hospital was not built for WW2 reasons, but it was handed over to a USA Army Hospital Unit to treat wounded soldiers.

Why do Defence clutch at straws to portray RCB as peacetime service.

e. *If in doubt do not shoot* (because there were civilians on the base)

Defence holy grail on ROE and their attempt to down play ROE. Defence cannot even read their own documents or is it the fact free virus at work again, Page 319 of Defence submission.

a. Speed Rapid deployment is essential to enable QRF personnel to apprehend or **eliminate** intruder. **Eliminate intruder** is curious words to use, in the contexts that is being used in, it could only mean to eliminate him/her, that is to shoot.

d. Defensive Action The fact that there are many RAAF civilians personnel working in KP's it is difficult to determinate friends or foe. To avoid confusion, and the opportunity for an intruder to escape, all personnel with in a reactive area must be considered unfriend

e. *2.39 If in doubt do not shoot reinforces that no armed adversary was expected.*

In what world does the above statements means there was no armed adversary. It just means be sure it was a foe before shooting, as this was the situation at Butterworth, talk about twisting the truth to give another impression.

Defence must be hard up or desperate to find new ridicules statements to justify peacetime service.

10. Defence response to questions asked by DHAAT on the 19 August 2022, which a number of questions have not been answered

A common theme throughout is 'Defence has not identified any information to answer this question'

It is a concern when Defence cannot come up with answers, and it is a concern when defence cannot come up with answers which go to the heart of the argument.

It is almost like they do not want to or afraid to answer them, as their narrative will fall over.

11. If Defence wants to know the answer to question 8 (aj) page 60. All they have to do is ask any RCB personnel, and to a man they will tell you they were permanently armed while on duty.

12. Defence must remember RCB personnel were there,
They were the ones who were dealing with the Insurgence,
They were the ones carrying out the role of a Quick Reaction Force.
They were the ones who witness first-hand the orders and briefings.
They were the ones carrying the live ammunition.

13. Defence 1.10 Page 5. This is just Defence tactic of trying to water down the voice of those who made a submission, trying to imply the numbers were insignificant.

Why do Defence revert to this subtle and low form of deception.

14. Why did Defence resort to flooding a submission with 100s and 100s of pages which have nothing to do if RCB was warlike or not.

I thought Defence would be above this, but apparently not.

Anyone with any real knowledge on this matter can see Defence claim, that RCB was Peacetime, is at best hollow, there are no real facts behind their narrative, cherry picked a few low level documents. They are in denial of any evidence which does not support flawed narrative. Even when they are presented with evidence they chose to ignore them. Defence are so afraid of the evidence they never try to argue against the evidence, they pretend it does not exist and keep to their scripted narrative.

Defence reject everything RCB have said, even though they are the ones which lived it, they experience it first-hand, they know what was going on at Butterworth.

15. Another subtle trick Defence uses to mislead people, Defence isolate Butterworth from what was going on around Butterworth and the rest of the country, that is the Communist Insurgency War, and nothing could be further from the truth.
16. Defence conveniently separates Butterworth from the rest of the country and pretend Butterworth was not part of the Insurgency for the purpose of recognition. Butterworth was part of the war against the Communist Insurgency.
17. Given that Butterworth was the biggest and most active operational base in Malaysia against the Ct's It was also the most desirable target in Malaysia for the Ct's.

To isolate Butterworth from the risk/threat to any other military base in Malaysia is absurd.
There was the same threat to Butterworth as to any other Military base which was attacked

18. Given other Military bases were attacked, this demonstrated that there was a high risk of an attack on Butterworth. Butterworth was not isolated from the Communist Insurgency; it was part of it.
19. Butterworth was a legitimate target for the Ct's to attack, as any other military base which was attacked.
20. The risk of Butterworth was minimised due the Australian Government deploying RCB as a deterrent, by having an active QRF turning up at vital points 365 days a year, for 19 years with live ammunition, and going in to a contact drill at all sorts of times, and with no pattern, this denied the Ct's access to Butterworth.
21. If RCB was not at Butterworth effectively doing their duty, then it may have been a different story Butterworth was not a soft target thanks to RCB.

Butterworth was at least if not higher the same threat level as any other military base which was attacked.
Butterworth was part off and directly involved in the war against the Communist Insurgency.

Defence say there was never a reported intent to target ADF at Butterworth, just like there was never any reported intent to attack the other bases which were attacked

Stephen winthrop
26 February 2023.