

Document ID: c8f57708a0f59ff1b3e94b03d2eaff083ce1896a

7 April, 2023

Signed On : <https://defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au>

## Submission to Inquiry - Warrant Officer Class 2 (RTD) Michael Raymond McCLUSKEY

### Part 1 – Name of Inquiry

**Name of Inquiry \***

Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal (DHAAT) into Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB) Service During the Period 1970 to 1989

### Part 2 – About the Submitter

**Title or Rank \***

Warrant Officer Class 2 (RTD)

**Given Names \***

Michael Raymond

**Surname \***

McCLUSKEY

**Post-nominals (if applicable)**

JP(QUAL)QLD

**Street Number and Name \***

[REDACTED]

**Suburb \***

[REDACTED]

**Postcode \***

[REDACTED]

**State \***

[REDACTED]

**Email Address: \***

[REDACTED]

**Primary Contact Number \***

[REDACTED]

**Secondary Contact Number**

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

This is a follow on submission to be read in conjunction with Submission 136 made by Michael Raymond McCLUSKEY

### Part 3 – Desired outcome

**Provide a summary of your submission:**

Recognition of Service of RCB Detachments at Air Base Base Butterworth during the period 1970 to 1989 to be reclassified, retrospectively, to that of warlike service for the purposes of the award of the Australian Active Service Medal (AASM) with Clasp Malaysia, award of the return from Active Service Badge (RASB) and flow on entitlements for repatriation benefits and entitlements. I would like to in, detail, advise of the processes that a private soldier, as part of the Quick Reaction Force (QRF), had to comply with/follow, during his 24 hour period as a QRF member.

## Part 4 - Your submission and Supporting Documentation

File Attached: Michael-Raymond-McCLUSKEY-Sub-to-DHAAT-Added-Submission-136A-7.4.23.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**

Michael Raymond McCluskey

**Date**

07/04/2023

*Warrant Officer Class 2 (RTD)*  
*Michael Raymond McCLUSKEY*

Signed by Warrant Officer Class 2 (RTD) Michael  
Raymond McCLUSKEY

Signed on: 7 April, 2023





## **Introduction**

This further submission is the request for recognition of RCB Service by the DHAAT for war like service for those personnel that served as part of Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB) at Air Base Butterworth (ABB) during the period 1970 to 1989.

My name is Michael Raymond McCluskey and I served in the Australian Regular Army from 1/10/1974 until 5/10/1995 where I then transferred to the ARES and finally discharged on 5/10/1997. I served at RCB ABB from the period November 1975 to March 1976 with D Coy 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (RAR).

Within this additional submission I intend to confirm the protocols and procedures that a private soldier did experience, myself, as part of the Quick Reaction Force (QRF) when I was at Air Base Butterworth.

In my opinion I don't believe the DHAAT delegates do not understand, the Chair being a Civilian and the 2 other Delegates, 1 being RAN and one being RAAF, the process whereby orders given at the lowest level. Those for personnel rostered on as QRF for a 24 hour period, are verbal only, and they are very detailed and cover off anything that may occur during

## **Briefings Upon Arrival at ABB**

On arrival at ABB RCB we were given briefings by RAAF and Army personnel on what the current situation was on the ground in regards to Counter Terrorists (CT) activities, the current threat level, that there was a distinct possibility we could expect casualty's when performing our tasks and what was expected of RCB personnel during their tour. It was also reinforced to all RCB personnel the fact that the Officer Commanding RCB had been delegated the disciplinary powers of that of a Commanding Officer due to the deployment being, confirmed through verbal orders, warlike service. **I actually saw charge sheets that were worded as such – 101101 Private I. Luck of 5 Section 11 Platoon Delta Company 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Australian Regiment, during warlike service at Air Force Base Butterworth as part of the Rifle Company Butterworth and whilst on duty as part of the Quick Reaction Force, did not attend the Quick Reaction Force office to mount a rostered Quick Reaction Force at 0800 hour on 1/1/1011 as per Routine Orders QRF for RCB dated 1/12/1010**

## **QRF Duties**

As part of a Section Size group consisting of a Section Commander, Section 2IC, a Forward Scout, a Machine Gunner, a Gunner No 2, a quantity of Riflemen and a Transport Driver ( driver of the QRF RAAF provided truck) you formed the QRF for a rostered 24 hour period. The QRF Section was rostered on a rotational basis as per Routine Orders for RCB which came around every 10 days.

When you mounted as QRF you were given Verbal Orders, in SMEAC (**s = situation m = mission e = execution a = administration and logistics and c = command and signals**) as per doctrine for the Australian Regular Army. The Section Commander would have received his verbal orders from the RCB Duty Officer prior to giving his verbal orders to the QRF personnel.

The orders were very clear and concise and covered off tasks that the QRF would have to complete throughout the nominated 24 hour period.

I have vivid memories of the first time I was rostered on as QRF as part of 5 Section 11 Platoon D Coy 6<sup>th</sup> BN Royal Australian regiment. My Section Commander was Cpl Bill McIvor, a Vietnam Veteran, Section 2IC (cannot remember his name), a Vietnam Veteran, Pte Kiwi Stewart a Vietnam Veteran

, Gun No 1, Pte Danny Chew Rifleman, had served in Singapore, Pte Peter Quintus Bosz a Rifleman, a Gnr who was attached to us from 1<sup>st</sup> Field Regiment in Enogerra, and 4 other Other Ranks. Cpl McIvor had just finished getting his verbal orders from the RCB Duty Officer, I think it was Captain Gary McKay MC, and he was in the process of compiling his verbal orders in his vui tui note book.

On his order we all gathered around in the QRF office, with designated RCB Duty Officer observing, and he proceeded to give us verbal orders. He requested that everyone remain silent during the orders group and that any questions were to be left until the end. He used the SMEAC protocol and would have covered off the following:

**Situation** – What we were actually doing during our 24 hour tour of duty as the rostered QRF Section

**Mission** – What our task was for the rostered 24 hour period tour of duty as the rostered QRF Section protocol dictates that the Mission is to be stated TWICE in a clear, concise loud manner. For example he would have said in a clear, concise and loud voice That the QRF were to provide security to ABB including its Defence Assets, RAAF Personnel and their Families . I say again, the QRF were to provide security to ABB including its Defence Assets, RAAF Personnel and their Families.

**Execution** – This covers off how you are going to execute the stated mission. What we have that will allow us to be able to successfully complete our task during the rostered 24 period. Report on the actual threat from CT at the time, where they may be coming from, weapons they may have, reconfirm to all present via pointing to a map where confirmed Vital Points(VP) are located within ABB, any special activities that are likely to occur during the rostered 24 hour period eg a visit from a Malay dignitary where there is heightened security and heightened awareness that the CT are or could be, sourced from Malay or Australian Intelligence Reports, in the local area, Rules of Engagement (ROE), challenge procedures(both in Malay first and then in English). There is a multitude of things that would be covered off during the Execution stage of verbal orders.

**Administration and Logistics (Admin and Log)** - Things that would have been covered off would have been who was in charge of the QRF section, chain of command if a person in authority was injured/killed, first line live ammunition to be carried as per Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) with second line ammunition in a locked container which would be on the back of the QRF truck, what the nominated QRF truck was, who was the driver of the QRF truck, QRF truck to be full of fuel, meals for the rostered period, meals for the guard at the weapon and ammunition storage room, weapon ready for the rostered period, what to do in respect of casualties, current map details (when it was issued etc to make sure everyone is using the same up to date maps), reconfirming that all present are subject to higher punishment procedures from the OC as he has been delegated the Powers of a CO due to the RCB being on warlike service etc etc. There is a multitude of things that would be covered off during the Admin and Log stage of verbal orders.

**Command and Signals (Comd and Sig)** – Things that would have been covered off would have been frequencies for the radios, call signs for RCB Duty Officer, QRF Office and QRF. There is a multitude of things that would have been covered off during the Comd and Log stage of verbal orders.

**Questions** – Are there any questions in relation to the orders you have just been given?

**Summary**

I request that the DHAAT Inquiry into RCB Service find in favour of the following points:

- 1. Qualifying service for VEA entitlements, and have ABB RCB deployments between 1970 and 1989 be declared under the Defence Act an Active Service Area and Warlike Service,**
- 2. Retrospective awarding of the Australian Active Service Medal (AASM) with clasp Malaysia for those that served at ABB RCB deployments between 1970 and 1989, and**
- 3. Retrospective awarding of the Returned from Active Service Badge (RASB) for those that served at ABB RCB deployments between 1970 and 1989.**

Regards

Michael Raymond McCluskey JP(QUAL)QLD

3 March 2023