

STATEMENT BY
216779 MAJ ARTHUR CLIVE MITCHELL-TAYLOR OAM, JP(QUAL), (RET)
IN RESPECT OF THE RIFLE COMPANY BUTTERWORTH

1. I hope and believe that at last there is an enquiry which is examining the facts of the 20-year deployment of the Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB) in an open and honest way.
2. My own view, when I was asked as National President of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (VVAA) to support the RCB was to decline.
3. Then, quickly, as a serving Army Reserve Major and a Staff Sergeant and at times Acting Company Sergeant Major during my own tour of duty with A Company of the 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment in 1979-80, I rethought my position from the point of view of the soldiers.
4. Their clear and unambiguous instructions were that there was a credible threat and an expectation of attempts by physically proximate Communist terrorists (CT) against personnel and materiel on the Butterworth Air Base.
5. No soldier who ever served at RCB was ever told that it was a “training opportunity” and I know from my later employment at the Defence Intelligence Organisation that these agencies can measure the capability of hostile forces, **but not intent**.
6. They carried a front-line ammunition load as we did in Vietnam. They had Rules of Engagement as we did in Afghanistan. They were authorised and prepared to kill in protection of those assets. Or be killed.
7. Every single day over some 20 years, with not a single break, those soldiers and junior NCOs patrolled and deployed by night and day, reacted to unexpected movement, lights, noises and other unusual events.
8. I have no doubt that some were damaged, physically and psychologically in reaction to those events, and still suffer from it.
9. The disparate levels of proof required by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) for injury claims incurred during peacetime and the same claims for injuries incurred in war mean that it was difficult if not impossible for RCB soldiers to receive treatment and/or compensation.
10. The official position of Army for all the 44 years of my service since I first enlisted as a private soldier in 1964 is that “Our men and women are our greatest asset”.

11. I am deeply ashamed that some of our senior officers, serving and retired, many having served with RCB and many later also in senior posts with DVA, have, without a second thought, abandoned their duty to their soldiers.

12. Or perhaps they believe that they never had a duty to the soldiers who believed their descriptions of the tactical situation, obeyed their orders and in faith, acted accordingly. To their continuing detriment.

13. Perhaps they believe that the cost of supporting these soldiers comes out of their own handsome retirement benefits.

14. In later years I was part of the team that prepared and presented the position of the men of the 8 RAR Association to Justice Mohr's *Review of Service Entitlement Anomalies in Respect of South-East Asian Service 1955-75*.

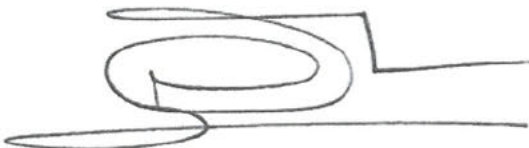
15. Personnel of the 28th Commonwealth Brigade serving at Terendak Barracks, Malacca in 1968 and 1969 including 8 RAR were deployed on exercises to locations where CT had been seen. We were unarmed except for live rounds carried by specified individuals in case of wild animal activity. The purpose of those exercises was by our presence to harry and unsettle what we now know to be these "Second Emergency" communists and encourage them to move on, but those of us involved did not know the extent of the Defence perfidy involved.

16. The similarities between this and the RCB are precise. 8 RAR and later the RCB were awarded the Australian Service Medal, without demur by Defence because it did not have to admit the real circumstances of part of our service.

17. Recognition of the RCB as Active Service will give me nothing that I do not already have, but it will help those soldiers who faithfully and loyally served their country and obeyed their orders.

18. I believe that circumstance has delivered me the knowledge and direct experience to provide an honest assessment of the position of the men of RCB. See my short biography at www.taylor.id.au.

Sincerely,



A. Clive Mitchell-Taylor

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The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for ensuring the integrity and reliability of financial data. This section also outlines the various methods and tools used to collect and analyze data, highlighting the need for consistency and precision in all reporting.

The second part of the document focuses on the challenges and solutions associated with data management. It addresses issues such as data security, privacy, and access control, providing practical advice on how to mitigate risks and ensure compliance with relevant regulations. The text also discusses the importance of regular backups and disaster recovery plans to protect against data loss.

The third part of the document explores the role of technology in modern data management. It discusses the benefits of cloud-based solutions, artificial intelligence, and machine learning in improving data processing and analysis. The text also touches on the importance of staying up-to-date with the latest technological advancements to maintain a competitive edge.

The final part of the document provides a summary of the key points discussed and offers recommendations for future research and development. It encourages a proactive approach to data management and emphasizes the need for continuous learning and adaptation in a rapidly changing environment.