

COMMENDATION FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Royal Australian Navy

Captain Michael Joseph NOONAN RAN, ACT

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations as the Chief of Staff, Headquarters Joint Task Force 633, Middle East Area of Operations from September 2008 to March 2009.

As Chief of Staff, Headquarters Joint Task Force 633, Captain Noonan displayed an exceptional level of leadership in an abnormally demanding and complex environment. At all times he displayed exceptional intelligence, professionalism and unwavering determination. He inspired his subordinate staff by his personal example, vision and drive and he sought and gained the highest standards from them. His leadership was directly responsible for the very successful relocation of the headquarters at short notice, and the establishment of a highly effective Joint Effects Board.

Commander Jonathan David SADLEIR RAN, ACT

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations as the Commander of Task Group 633.1 and Commanding Officer, HMAS *Parramatta*, Middle East Area of Operations from August 2008 to January 2009.

As Commander of Task Group 633.1 and Commanding Officer HMAS *Parramatta* during Operations CATALYST and SLIPPER, Commander Sadleir displayed superb leadership in inspiring his task group to achieve exceptional results in its internationally critical role. His singular operational focus combined with an inspiring leadership style enabled his task group to exceed expectations in meeting its assigned tasks.

Australian Army

Private A, Tas

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations in Afghanistan in 2008.

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Warrant Officer Class Two Nathan COLE, Vic

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations as the Gun Line Section Commander, Royal Australian Artillery Troop and Second-in-Command, Kajaki Gun Troop in Afghanistan.

Warrant Officer Cole's extraordinary leadership and inspirational command were directly responsible for the success of the 1st Royal Australian Artillery Troop – Afghanistan. His uncompromising standards and faultless situational awareness were crucial to the professionalism of the gun troop and ensured the smooth integration of the Australian troop into their British foster unit. In action, Warrant Officer Cole played a critical role in the provision of accurate, decisive and unrelenting indirect fire support to Coalition combat forces.

Lieutenant Colonel Andrew John HOCKING, ACT

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations as the Lead Planner, Coalition Joint Plans Branch and as the Australian Senior National Representative on Headquarters International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.

Lieutenant Colonel Hocking is a very gifted and professional officer with exceptional analytical skill. He was instrumental in conceiving and developing the seminal operational plan for the International Security Assistance Force: a contribution which will be central to the future security and stability of Afghanistan. He consistently demonstrated exceptional diplomacy, tolerance and resilience to achieve important planning outcomes and was an excellent ambassador for Australia and Australian Senior National Representative on the headquarters.

Major J, WA

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations in Afghanistan in 2008.

Corporal J, NSW

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations in Afghanistan in 2008.

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Sergeant M, NSW

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations, in Afghanistan, 2008.

Warrant Officer Class Two M, NSW

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations, in Afghanistan, 2008.

Lance Corporal Jack Kade McEWAN, WA

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations while a sniper team leader in Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force 1 in the Chora Valley, Afghanistan on the 23 November 2008.

Lance Corporal McEwan was part of a static observation post in support of an operational mentoring liaison team and Afghan National Army patrol in the Chora Valley where his element came under intense fire and enemy assault. He displayed a keen tactical sense and coordinated fire in order to defend the position and allow withdrawal. His actions resulted in the holding of the position for 45 minutes, drew the attention of a majority of the insurgent fighters away from the patrol which was also in contact, and enabled a successful withdrawal.

Major Michael Lee MURDOCH, NT

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations while the Operations Officer, Reconstruction Task Force Rotation Four during Operation SLIPPER in Afghanistan.

Major Murdoch is an outstanding officer with uncompromising professional standards. As the Task Force Operations Officer, he was instrumental in conceiving, coordinating and directing a sequence of highly successful operations which ultimately enhanced the stability and security of the task force's sector. Major Murdoch's performance has brought consistent praise and his outstanding achievements, determination and attention to detail have set the finest example to Task Force Uruzgan.

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Private Thomas Bao-Jin PRICE, NT

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations as a combat first aider in a mass casualty situation in the south of the Baluchi Valley, Afghanistan on 12 January 2009.

Details not available at the request of Private Price.

Captain R, ACT

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations, in Afghanistan in 2008.