

COMMENDATION FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Australian Army

Private Steven Andrew HALL, Qld

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations as a Rifleman, 12 Platoon, Security Task Group, 2nd Reconstruction Task Force during Operation SLIPPER.

While Lead Scout on patrol in Afghanistan on 10 August 2007, Private Hall and his Section were engaged by enemy fighters with heavy small arms and rocket propelled grenade fire. With total disregard for his own safety, and while acting from an unprotected position, Private Hall instinctively returned accurate covering fire to allow the remainder of his Section to break contact with the enemy. His actions show his superior devotion to duty and embody the qualities of courage, initiative and teamwork which are so important to success in battle.

Sergeant Wade James McFARLANE, Qld

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations as the Troop Sergeant of 3 Troop, Security Task Group, 2nd Reconstruction Task Force during Operation SLIPPER.

Sergeant McFarlane displayed distinguished service as the Commander of an Australian Light Armoured Vehicle Patrol during operations in the Chora Valley, Afghanistan. His excellent ground appreciation skills and control of troop vehicles and dismounted Infantry elements allowed successful movement in and out of the valley. His decision to order a deliberate engineer search of a vulnerable point led to the discovery and defusing of an improvised explosive device, and greatly reduced the risk of travel on that road.

Captain Paul Michael SANDERSON, ACT

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations as the acting Officer Commanding the Security Task Group, 2nd Reconstruction Task Force during Operation SYDNEY 3.

During *Operation Sydney 3*, Captain Sanderson judiciously planned and supervised a preliminary reconnaissance operation to answer key information requirements and generate deception. His aggressive approach and superior leadership in conducting early offensive operations into known or suspected enemy locations disrupted their ability to attack the construction site during the construction task, and his timely dissemination of relevant information ensured a high level of support for elements in contact with the enemy forces.

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Major Kelvin Stuart SEABROOK, NSW

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations as Operations and Training Major for the 10th Iraqi Army Division Military Transition Team during Operation CATALYST.

Major Seabrook distinguished himself through demanding, complex and dangerous circumstances in his role as the lead planner for the Multi-National Division Military Transition Team, providing training and direct mentoring support to the Iraqi Army 10th Division in Basra. His consistently outstanding performance, tireless energy and exceptional devotion to duty were evident during his personal coordination of the preparation of two Iraqi battalions for their successful combat tours in Baghdad.

Royal Australian Air Force

Group Captain Gavin Alexander TURNBULL, NSW

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations as the Chief of Staff Headquarters Joint Task Force 633 during Operations CATALYST and SLIPPER.

Group Captain Turnbull is a thoroughly professional officer who made a distinguished contribution to Australian operations in the Middle East. At a time of unusually high operational tempo, he managed day-to-day crises with great composure and worked tirelessly to improve the longer term efficiency and effectiveness of the Joint Task Force. His achievements have been in accordance with the finest traditions of the Royal Australian Air Force and the Australian Defence Force.