

COMMENDATION FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Royal Australian Navy

Captain Timothy Alan BROWN RAN, NSW

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations as the Commander of Task Group 633.1 and Commanding Officer of HMAS *Arunta* during Operations SLIPPER and CATALYST.

Captain Brown displayed superb leadership, inspiring his Task Group to achieve exceptional results in its internationally critical role. His singular operational focus combined with a highly innovative style enabled his Task Group to conceive and develop critical new capabilities and, ultimately, to exceed expectations in meeting its assigned tasks. His distinguished and inspirational leadership is in the finest traditions of the Royal Australian Navy and the Australian Defence Force.

Australian Army

Lieutenant Colonel Scott GILLS, ACT

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations as the Intelligence Officer and the Battle Group Chief of Staff for Overwatch Battle Group (West) - Four during Operation CATALYST in southern Iraq.

Lieutenant Colonel Gills is an exceptional officer whose leadership, analytical ability, foresight and professional excellence have enabled the Battle Group Headquarters to maintain an accurate intelligence picture while concurrently ensuring planning is appropriately postured to meet the intent for the withdrawal of Australian combat troops from southern Iraq. His distinguished performance is in the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

Lieutenant Colonel Alan Kenneth HUGHES, Qld

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations as the Commanding Officer of the Ninth Australian Army Training Team – Iraq from September 2007 to June 2008.

Lieutenant Colonel Hughes displayed distinguished leadership and dedication to duty as the Commanding Officer of the Ninth Australian Army Training Team – Iraq. His personal example and drive were instrumental to the outstanding success of his team in the delivery of high quality training and mentoring to the Iraqi Army. His distinguished performance of command and leadership by example are in the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

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Australian Army (continued)

Lieutenant Colonel Michael Anthony KING, United States of America
For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations as the Commander of the Force Level Logistic Asset, Middle East Area of Operations over the period February to August 2008.

Lieutenant Colonel King is a gifted logistics commander with exceptional personnel, leadership and management skills. He led a widely dispersed logistics organisation from the front, inspiring his team to provide outstanding logistic support to the Joint Task Force, which contributed significantly to the overall success of the Australian Defence Force contribution in the Middle East and Afghanistan. Lieutenant Colonel King's distinguished and inspirational leadership has been in the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

Corporal Luke Charles McDONALD, NSW
For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations as a Mortar Section Commander of the Reconstruction Task Force Three and of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

Corporal McDonald has provided exceptional service as a Mortar Section Commander while on operations in Afghanistan. He has demonstrated exemplary leadership and tactical competence during danger close fire missions while in contact with enemy forces. He has demonstrated his ability as a junior commander and his achievements are of the highest order and in the finest traditions of The Royal Australian Regiment, the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

Major Jayson Elliott PAGE, Qld
For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations as the Officer Commanding the Iraqi Security Force Transition Group, Overwatch Battle Group (West) - Four in southern Iraq.

Major Page is an outstanding officer whose analytical ability, foresight and professional excellence have enabled the Iraqi Security Force Transition Group to establish an enduring effect to build capacity within the Iraqi Security Forces. His outstanding achievements, uncompromising work ethic and attention to detail have set an exemplary example to the diverse group of personnel under his control and are in the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

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Australian Army (continued)

Corporal Dylan Robert ROBINSON, Qld

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations as a member of Reconstruction Task Force Two on Operation SLIPPER in Afghanistan during 2007.

Corporal Robinson displayed exemplary courage, teamwork and initiative under fire in several engagements with the Taliban during his deployment on Operation SLIPPER. His actions directly contributed to the continued security of the Reconstruction Task Force and ultimately enabled it to achieve its mission. Corporal Robinson's distinguished performance during Operation SLIPPER has been in the finest traditions of his Corps, the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

Royal Australian Air Force

Wing Commander Paul Anthony TURNER, NSW

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations as the Reconnaissance Team leader and initial Detachment Commander of the Control and Reporting Centre, Afghanistan in support of Operation SLIPPER.

Wing Commander Turner has demonstrated superb initiative and dedication, ensuring an effective Australian Defence Force response to a requirement to establish a Control and Reporting Centre in Afghanistan. His outstanding achievements ensured the on-schedule transfer of air surveillance and air battle management operations from the United States of America to Australian command on 5 August 2007. His efforts are in the finest traditions of the Royal Australian Air Force and the Australian Defence Force.