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16 January 2009

It is notified for general information that Her Majesty The Queen has approved the award of the *Victoria Cross for Australia* to:

Trooper Mark Gregor DONALDSON, WA

For most conspicuous acts of gallantry in action in a circumstance of great peril in Afghanistan, as part of the Special Operations Task Group during Operation SLIPPER, Oruzgan Province, Afghanistan.

By Her Excellency's Command

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Stephen Brady'.

Stephen Brady
Official Secretary to the Governor-General

VICTORIA CROSS FOR AUSTRALIA (VC)

Australian Army

Trooper Mark Gregor DONALDSON, WA

For most conspicuous acts of gallantry in action in a circumstance of great peril in Afghanistan, as part of the Special Operations Task Group during Operations SLIPPER, Oruzgan Province, Afghanistan.

On 2 September 2008 Trooper Donaldson was outstanding in the manner in which he fought during a prolonged and effective enemy ambush. On numerous occasions, he deliberately drew the enemy's fire in order to allow wounded soldiers to be moved to safety. As the battle raged around him he saw that a coalition interpreter was lying motionless on exposed ground. With complete disregard for his own safety, on his own initiative and alone, Trooper Donaldson ran back eighty metres across exposed ground to rescue the interpreter and carry him back to a vehicle. Trooper Donaldson then rejoined his patrol and continued to engage the enemy while remaining exposed to heavy enemy fire.