

MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION

Australian Defence Force

1st Mentoring Task Force,

For sustained outstanding service in warlike operations on Operation SLIPPER in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan, between 20 January and 30 October 2010.

The 1st Mentoring Task Force contributed markedly to improved security and development through its partnering with the 4th Brigade, Afghanistan National Army. During the 8 months' deployment, the task force conducted over 1,700 patrols involving more than 560 small-arms fire incidents, and located over 100 improvised explosive devices and more than 250 weapons and explosives caches. While suffering more than 50 improvised explosive device strikes and nearly 40 battle casualties, 6 of whom were killed in action, the Task Force displayed remarkable endurance and courage to build positive relationships with the local people, tribal leaders and officials of the Afghanistan Government.