COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

DECLARATION AND DETERMINATION UNDER THE
AUSTRALIAN ACTIVE SERVICE MEDAL 1945-75 REGULATIONS

I, PETER JOHN HOLLINGWORTH, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, pursuant to the Australian Active Service Medal 1945-1975 Regulations set out in the Schedule to Letters Patent dated 11 December 1997 ("the Regulations"), and on the recommendation of the Minister for Defence hereby:

(a) revoke the Declaration and Determination made on 30 January 1998 under regulation 3 and subregulation 4(2) respectively of the Regulations;

(b) declare, under regulation 3 of the Regulations, Defence Force activities in the prescribed area of operations in South Vietnam during the period that commenced on 31 July 1962 and ended on 27 January 1973 to be a prescribed operation; and

(c) determine, under subregulation 4(2) of the Regulations, that the conditions for award of the Australian Active Service Medal 1945-1975 with clasp ‘VIETNAM’ ("the Medal") in respect of that prescribed operation are:

(i) the Medal may be awarded to a member of the Australian Defence Force who rendered service as such a member while allotted and posted as a member of the Australian element to the prescribed operation;

(ii) the Medal may be awarded to a member of the Australian Defence Force who rendered service as such a member allotted as part of the contribution of a foreign Defence Force to the prescribed operation while on secondment or exchange with the foreign Defence Force;

(iii) the Medal may be awarded to a member of the Australian Defence Force who rendered service as such a member and who completed one operational sortie within the duration of the prescribed operation;
(iv) the Medal may be awarded to a member of the Australian Defence Force who rendered service as such a member for a period of 30 days, or for periods amounting in the aggregate to 30 days, for official visits, inspections or other occurrences of a temporary nature in connection with the military contribution in the prescribed operation;

(v) the Medal may be awarded to a member of the Defence Force, qualified for the General Service Medal 1962 with clasp ‘SOUTH VIETNAM’ in accordance with the conditions for that award set out in a Royal Warrant dated 8 June 1968;

(vi) the Medal may be awarded to a person who, as a member of the Defence Force, qualified for the Vietnam Medal in accordance with the conditions for that award set out in a Royal Warrant dated 8 June 1968;

(vii) the Medal may be awarded to a person who, as a member of the Defence Force, qualified for the Vietnam Logistic and Support Medal in accordance with the conditions for that award set out in Regulations and Letters Patent dated 24 February 1993; and

(viii) the Medal may be awarded to a person who, in accordance with a determination made by the Minister under paragraph 4(1)(b) of the Regulations, is in a class of persons who may be awarded the Medal with clasp ‘VIETNAM’.

(d) determine, for the purposes of this determination, that the prescribed area of operations in South Vietnam means:

(i) all land and inland waters of the territory of Vietnam south of parallel 21 degrees 30 minutes north latitude;

(ii) all that area of land and waters (other than land and waters forming part of the territory of Cambodia and China) bounded by a line commencing at the intersection of the boundary between Cambodia and Vietnam with the shore of Vietnam at high-water mark; thence proceeding in a straight line to a point 185.2 kilometres west (true) of that intersection; thence proceeding along an imaginary line parallel to, and at a distance of 185.2 kilometres from the shore of Vietnam at high-water mark to its intersection with the parallel 21 degrees 30 minutes north latitude; and
(iii) the airspace above the area referred to in paragraphs (d)(i) and (d)(ii).

Dated 20. 2. 2002

Governor-General

By His Excellency's Command

ROBERT HILL
Minister for Defence
Senator the Hon Robert Hill
Leader of the Government in the Senate
Minister for Defence

His Excellency
The Right Reverend Dr Peter Hollingworth AC OBE
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia
Government House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Your Excellency

I enclose for your consideration Instruments of declaration and determination for the Australian Service Medal with Clasp ‘IRAQ’, Australian Service Medal with Clasp ‘SE ASIA’, Australian Service Medal with Clasp ‘IRIAN JAYA’ and Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75 with Clasp ‘VIETNAM’.

Australia has had personnel serve with approved third country deployments with United States and United Kingdom forces in Iraq from 16 July 1991 to 1 October 2001 who, until now, have not been recognised by an award as a result of their service. As a matter of equity, the Australia Service Medal (ASM) with Clasp ‘IRAQ’ should now be awarded to provide appropriate recognition to those eligible personnel.

On the recommendation of the Review of Service Entitlement Anomalies in Respect of South-East Asian Service, survey operations in South East Asia and Irian Jaya were further reviewed by the Department of Defence. As a result, these operations are now recommended for recognition in accordance with the principles of the Review by the ASM with Clasp ‘SE ASIA’ and a new Clasp ‘IRIAN JAYA’.

Personnel who served in South Vietnam from 31 July 1962 to 24 December 1962 under wartime are, at the moment, ineligible for the Australian Active Service Medal (AASM) 1945-75 with Clasp ‘VIETNAM’. This amendment removes this anomaly.

Accordingly, I recommend that you sign the enclosed Instruments of declaration and determination.

Yours sincerely

Robert Hill

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