



**Commonwealth
of Australia**

Gazette

No. S 10, Tuesday, 20 January 2009

Published by the Commonwealth of Australia

SPECIAL



Government House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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

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.