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23 January 2011

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

Corporal Benjamin ROBERTS-SMITH MG, WA

For the most conspicuous gallantry and daring in the face of the enemy while in circumstances of extreme peril as a Patrol Second-in-Command, Special Operations Task Group on Operation SLIPPER.

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*****Corporal Benjamin ROBERTS-SMITH MG, WA**

For the most conspicuous gallantry and daring in the face of the enemy while in circumstances of extreme peril as a Patrol Second-in-Command, Special Operations Task Group on Operation SLIPPER.

Demonstrating extreme devotion to duty and the most conspicuous gallantry in action in the face of a very determined and aggressive enemy and with total disregard for his own safety, Corporal Benjamin Roberts-Smith initiated an assault against an elevated fortification consisting of three enemy machine gun positions and superior numbers of heavily armed insurgents. With members of his patrol pinned down by the three enemy machine gun positions, he knowingly and willingly exposed his position in order to draw fire away from his team mates and enabled them to apply fire against the enemy. Fighting at ranges as close as 20 metres, he seized the advantage and, demonstrating extreme devotion to duty and the most conspicuous gallantry and with total disregard for his own safety, Corporal Roberts-Smith stormed two enemy machine gun positions killing both machine gun teams. His selfless actions in circumstances of great peril served to enable his patrol to break into the enemy's defences and to regain the initiative, thereby resulting in a tactical victory against an enemy more than three times the size of the ground force.