



Government House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

20 November 2023

MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION

The Administrator of the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia is pleased to announce the following awards of the Meritorious Unit Citation:

AUSTRALIAN SERVICE CONTINGENTS I, II, III, and IV

For sustained outstanding service in warlike operations as part of the first and second United Nations Operation in Somalia on Operation IGUANA, over the period October 1992 to November 1994.

1ST BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT BATTALION GROUP

For sustained outstanding service in warlike operations as part of the Unified Task Force on Operation SOLACE in Somalia, over the period December 1992 to May 1993.

HMAS TOBRUK

For sustained outstanding service in warlike operations on Operation SOLACE in support of United Nations Security Council Resolution 794 to end hostilities in Somalia and establish a secure environment for the distribution of humanitarian aid in 1993.

By His Excellency's command

Paul Singer MVO

Official Secretary to the Governor-General

AUSTRALIAN SERVICE CONTINGENTS I, II, III and IV

MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION

For sustained outstanding service in warlike operations as part of the first and second United Nations Operations in Somalia on Operation IGUANA, over the period October 1992 to November 1994.

Australian Service Contingents I, II, III and IV provided movement control, air traffic control, security and staff support to United Nations forces in Somalia over the period October 1992 to November 1994. In the face of constant pressure and deteriorating security conditions, the contingents displayed exceptional skill and professionalism in the execution of their responsibilities. The tireless efforts of the Australian Service Contingents were vital to the United Nations mission and were in the finest tradition of the Australian Defence Force.

1ST BATTALION, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT BATTALION GROUP

MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION

For sustained outstanding service in warlike operations as part of the Unified Task Force on Operation SOLACE in Somalia, over the period December 1992 to May 1993.

The 1st Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment Battalion Group, was responsible for the security of Humanitarian Relief Sector-Baidoa, one of the most dangerous areas in Somalia. Under the most adverse physical and climatic conditions and the actions of a determined and capable adversary, the Battalion Group relied on intensive operations to dominate their 17,000 square kilometre Area of Operations. Their exceptional determination and compassion enabled the safe distribution of humanitarian aid and the resumption of law and order. The courage, dedication and professionalism of the Battalion Group was in the finest tradition of the Australian Defence Force.

HMAS TOBRUK

MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION

For sustained outstanding service in warlike operations on Operation SOLACE in support of United Nations Security Council Resolution 794 to end hostilities in Somalia and establish a secure environment for the distribution of humanitarian aid in 1993.

HMAS *Tobruk* operated substantially above its normal capacity and maintained a consistent high level of operational tasking over an extended period in support of Operation SOLACE. For the duration of the deployment *Tobruk* made a continuous and enduring contribution to the operation through logistical and communication support to the Australian Force in Somalia. In arduous and dangerous conditions, the ship's company demonstrated adaptability, commitment and professionalism in meeting mission objectives. The teamwork and ethos exhibited by the crew during the 89 day warlike operation was outstanding. *Tobruk's* meritorious service and commitment to the task contributed directly to the success of the overall mission.